WEEK OF June 7, 2015

Mowdy signs with MVSU

East Central Community College pitcher Zach Mowdy of Union (seated, center) has signed a national letter of intent to continue his baseball career at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena. The 6-foot, 1-inch lefthander who prepped at Union High School is shown with his parents Sean Mowdy and Amanda Mowdy and ECCC Head Baseball Coach Neal Holliman (standing). "Zach had an arm injury his sophomore year that hampered him throughout the year, but due to his desire to play waited until after the season to have surgery," said Holliman. "Zach's love and commitment to East Central baseball will always be appreciated and he will always be a Warrior."

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

ECCC's Myers gets all-state nod

East Central Community College pitcher Will Myers of Philadelphia has been named first team Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-State for his play this season.

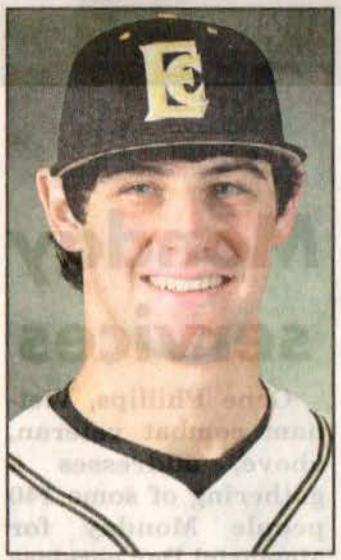
Myers was 4-2 on the mound for the Diamond Warriors, with a 3.0 earned run average. He struck out 72 batters in 67 innings of work.

The lefthander, who prepped at Leake Academy, was named the MACJC Pitcher of the Week for April 27 to May 3. He was 2-0 during that week, including a no-hitter against Jones County Junior College. Myers will play for the University of Alabama in Huntsville next season.

Named second team MACJC All-State were sophomore outfielder Ben Cooley of Hattiesburg, sophomore infielder Cody Daigle of Addis, La., freshman catcher Michael Davis of Clinton, sophomore pitcher/catcher Lane Fazende of Carriere, and sophomore infielder Dylan Little of Semmes, Ala.

Cooley, a product of South Jones High School, hit .331 for the Warriors this season, with 23 RBIs. He was errorless in the field on 92 attempts. He will continue his baseball career at the University of North Alabama.

Daigle, a product of Parkview Baptist High School, hit .356 for ECCC with a team leading 34 RBIs, 17 doubles, and six home runs. He will play for Louisiana Tech next season.



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Davis, a product of Clinton High School, hit .323 with 20 RBIs. He had only four errors in 276 attempts.

Fazende, a product of Pearl River Central High School, hit .442 in 43 at bats with nine RBIs. He also was 2-1 on the mound with a 2.6 ERA and 23 strikeouts in 32 innings. He will continue his career at William Carey.

Little, a product of Mary G. Montgomery High School, hit .348 with 25 RBIs and a team-leading 47 singles. He will continue his career at the University of West Alabama.

Receiving team awards voted on by the players were: Daigle, most valuable player; Myers, most valuable pitcher; Cooley, most valuable defensive player; freshman infielder Dylan Snypes of State Line and Wayne County High School and freshman outfielder Reagan Warren of Conehatta and Newton County High School, co-most improved players; Myers and sophomore outfielder Chance Whitten, co-recipients of the Jamie Clark Memorial Award for Baseball; and Whitten, Scholar-Athlete Award. Whitten has signed to continue his career at Mississippi College.

Davis received the first Most Competitive Award voted on by the coaches.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF _____

MCC advances to MACJC State Tournament

From school reports

The Meridian Community College Eagles had to work overtime Saturday afternoon to advance to the next round of the postseason against East Central Community College.

The Eagles dropped a tough 14-1 decision in Game 2 of its best-of-three series with the Warriors, but rebounded in decisive third game to defeat ECCC 11-1.

The series victory now advances MCC to the 2015 MACJC State Tournament which will be played next week on the campus of Hinds Community College in Raymond. The tournament will consist of four teams which include: MCC, Hinds, Northwest Mississippi and East Mississippi.

MCC pushed its overall record to 33-15 for the season, while East Central closed out the 2015 campaign with a 25-17 overall record. The 2015 MACJC State Tournament is scheduled to begin on Thursday and more information will be available on the schedule for the tournament at a later time.

MCC won the series in Game 3 behind a complete game performance on the mound from Neshoba Central standout Austin Harrison. The Eagles finished the run-rule victory in the bottom of the seventh inning with three runs. Harrison (5-2) tossed seven innings, scattered five hits, allowed one run and collected two strikeouts in the effort.

MCC finished Game 3 with 10 hits overall, and Kyle Bayles led the team at the plate with three hits and four RBIs. Matt Berler added a pair of RBI base hits, while Dalton Thomas smashed his second homer of the weekend — a two-run shot in the bottom of the fifth. Michael Druhan also drove in two runs on a couple of hits, and Goose Yates added a double in the game for the Eagles.

MCC was forced to play the third game of the series after falling in the opening game on Saturday by a final score of 14-1 which was called due to a run rule. MCC only managed four hits in the losing effort and was led at the plate by Goose Yates with an RBI single. Matt Berler, Scott Votaw, and Andrew Crook were responsible for the remaining three hits in Game Two.

Jake Smith (3-2) suffered the loss on the mound in Game 2 for the Eagles after working three innings and allowing four earned runs.

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WEEK OF April 26, 2015

Homer gives MCC win vs. ECCC

From school reports

The Meridian Community College Eagles had to dig down deep in the late innings on Friday night at Scaggs Field in the opening round of the MACJC playoffs against East Central Community College.

The Warriors led for the entire game, but in the bottom of the eighth inning, things changed quickly in the favor of the home team. Sophomore Dalton Thomas smashed a two-run home run over the wall in center field to propel MCC to a dramatic 7-6 victory over East Central.

The victory gives the green and white a 1-0 lead in the three-game set against the Warriors, with Game 2 taking place at 2 p.m. today. Game 3, if necessary, will follow.

Sophomore Bryant Johnston (9-1) had another solid outing for the Eagles from the bullpen, pitching 5 2/3 innings and collecting four strikeouts to grab the win. Joshua Carpenter suffered the loss out of the bullpen for East Central after surrendering the home run in the eighth inning to Thomas.

Goose Yates led the way at the plate with three hits, and one came on a solo home run in the fifth inning. Thomas finished with a pair of hits. Kyle Bayles chipped in with two hits and an RBI, while Matt Berler collected a pair of singles in the one-run victory.

MCC finished the game with 11 hits, and East Central closed the night out with 12 hits.

MCC improved to 32-14 with the victory and also snapped a modest three-game losing streak, while East Central dropped to 25-15 overall for the season.

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WEEK OF April 19, 2015

Warriors swept at home

By ECCC Sports information

East Central Community College dropped a doubleheader in Decatur April 14 to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs by scores of 7-4 and 12-8.

With the losses, the Warriors fall to 21-13 overall and 14-8 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges league play.

East Central dropped Game 1, 7-4 despite out-hitting Gulf Coast 10-9. The game was tied 2-2 going into the top of the fifth, when the Bulldogs took the lead for good, scoring two runs on two hits, two East Central errors and a wild pitch.

Michael Davis was 2-3 at the plate with two doubles and two runs scored to lead the Warriors. Matt Mitchell also had two doubles in four trips to the plate. T.J. Lockett was 2-3 with an RBI, and Ben Cooley tripled in a run in the contest.

Josh Carpenter was charged with the loss, working one and two thirds innings on the mound.

In Game 2, East Central jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the first inning but could not hold on in the 12-8 loss.

The Warriors managed 13 hits, including three from Reagan Warren, who also had three RBIs, and three hits from Lockett. Davis, Cody Daigle and Will Kennedy each had two hits. Davis had a two-run triple in the bottom of the first inning.

Seven Warrior pitchers gave up 17 hits in the nightcap. Peyton Cain was credited with the loss.

ECCC's Joiner finishes 2nd, Warriors place 5th at state golf championship

By ECCC Sports information

East Central Community College's Andrew Joiner Finishes 2nd, Warriors 5th at State Championship

East Central Community College's Andrew Joiner fired a one-under par 143 to finish tied for second in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Golf Championship held April 18-19 at Lion Hills in Columbus.

Joiner shot rounds of 70 and 73. His performance during the state championship qualified him to compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Championship scheduled for April 26-27 at Laurel Country Club. It is hosted by Jones County Junior College. East Central golfer Zack Hammons also qualified for the Region 23 Championship based on his scoring average for the year.

As a team, the Warriors finished in fifth place overall at the MACJC State Championship with a two-day total of 19-over par 595 (293, 302). The Warriors stood in third place after the first round on April 18.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College was crowned MACJC State Champions after shooting a six-under par 570 as a team.

Other East Central golfers participating in the state championship included Tristan Hernandez, 149 (74, 75); Hammons, 154 (79, 75); Karlton Ginn, 154 (75, 79); and Nathan Nance, 159 (74, 85).

At the Meridian Community College Invitational played April 13-14 at Briarwood Country Club in Meridian, East Central freshman golfer Zack Hammons of Raleigh shot a one-over par 145 over 36 holes to finish tied for fourth place in the.

The Warriors finished fifth overall, with a score of 612 (311, 301).

Hammons shot rounds of 73 and 72 to earn All-Tournament Team honors.

Other East Central golfers participating included Tristan Hernandez, 150 (74, 76); Karlton Ginn, 156 (80, 76); Andrew Joiner, 161 (84, 77); and Nathan Nance, 163 (86, 77).

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WEEK OF April 12, 2015

East Central CC swept at home by MGCC

From school reports

DECATUR — The East Central Community College Warriors dropped a doubleheader Tuesday to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs, 7-4 and 12-8.

ECCC dropped Game 1 despite out-hitting Gulf Coast 10-9. The game was tied 2-2 going into the top of the fifth, when the Bulldogs took the lead for good, scoring two runs on two hits, two ECCC errors and a wild pitch.

Michael Davis of Clinton High School was 2-for-3 at the plate with two doubles and two runs scored to lead the Warriors offensively. Matt Mitchell of Lake High School also had two doubles in four trips to the plate. T.J. Lockett of Bibb County High School (Brent, Ala.) was 2-for-3 with an RBI, and Ben Cooley of South Jones High School tripled in a run in the contest.

Josh Carpenter of Winona High School was charged with the loss, working 1 2/3 innings on the mound.

In Game 2, ECCC jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the first inning, but couldn't hold on in the 12-8 loss. The Warriors did manage 13 hits, including three from Reagan Warren of Newton County High School, who also had three RBIs, and three hits from Lockett. Davis, Cody Daigle of Parkview Baptist High School (Addis, La.) and Will Kennedy of Union High School each had two hits. Davis had a two-run triple in the bottom of the first inning.

Seven Warrior pitchers gave up 17 hits in the nightcap. Peyton Cain of Newton County High School was credited with the loss.

ECCC (21-13, 14-8) returns to action Saturday, April 18, as the Warriors host Itawamba Community College in Decatur. Doubleheader action begins at 2 p.m.

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WEEK OF April 5, 2015

MCC baseball set for showdown with ECCC

From school reports

The Meridian Community College Eagles are preparing for the final stretch run in conference action for the 2015 season and the team will welcome one of its longtime rivals to Scaggs Field on Wednesday afternoon.

The East Central Community College Warriors will head to Meridian on Wednesday afternoon for a pivotal MACJC showdown with both teams very much in the mix for one of the top four spots in the standings inside the MACJC.

The two teams will enter play on Wednesday tied in the fourth position among the 15 teams inside the very difficult MACJC standings. The Eagles are playing some of their best baseball of the season, having won seven of its last eight conference games which was good enough to earn the team a ranking in the latest NJCAA Division II Baseball Poll.

MCC is currently ranked 19th according to the latest poll after sweeping doubleheaders from Southwest Mississippi and Northeast Mississippi recently on the diamond. MCC returned to action last week by earning a doubleheader split, 7-9 and 8-7, on the road at East Mississippi Community College and later swept Pearl River Community College, 9-8 and 6-5, to enter the Easter weekend.

East Central has also been playing good baseball as of late after splitting its most recent conference doubleheader with East Mississippi Community College last Thursday in Decatur. The Warriors earned an impressive victory in Game 2 of its set with the Lions by blowing past the visitors by a final score of 17-2.

ECCC most recently swept a conference doubleheader with Mississippi Delta, 6-2 and 11-4, and split a road set with Copiah-Lincoln, 4-8 and 5-4, before playing EMCC last Thursday at home.

Dillon Sudduth will lead MCC into action on Wednesday afternoon with an overall record of 23-10, while Neal Holliman will bring his East Central squad to Meridian with an 18-10 overall mark. The first pitch of Game 1 between the two schools is set for 4 p.m. at Scaggs Field.

More Information

Game 1 of today's doubleheader is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

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WEEK OF April 5, 2015

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

Dylan Snipes smacked a two-out single to right field to drive in the first run of the game in the sixth inning, and Will Myers tossed six strong innings to lift East Central Community College to a 5-0 Game 2 win and salvage a doubleheader split against MACJC rival Meridian Community College Wednesday.

"We've come back to win the second game after losing the first one time and time again," East Central coach Neal Holliman said. "(MCC) has a very good club, and they're a quality opponent, and we were able to get a split. I was proud of our guys coming back after we played so poorly in the first one; you have to move on from that."

MCC led start to finish to win the opener handily 8-3 before falling in the nightcap.

"I thought we played hard. I thought both teams played hard," Meridian coach Dillon Sudduth said. "That second game came down to a timely hit or two, and they were able to get them and we didn't."

With the game scoreless in the top of the sixth, Snipes stepped to the plate with two men on seeking to put the Warriors ahead for the first time Wednesday. The freshman shortstop smacked the third pitch he saw into right field to drive in William Kennedy and put East Central ahead.

More information

The Warriors rose to 19-11 (12-6), while MCC rose to 24-11 (12-6).

The Warriors (19-11, 12-6) managed to tack on four runs in the seventh, including three consecutive RBI hits, capped off by an RBI double by Ben Cooley.

Myers struck out six batters in earning the win.

"That was big (the seventh inning rally) because Myers was throwing really well, but we didn't want to send him back out there (for the seventh)," Holliman said. "It's still early enough in the year to where you're worried about pitch count. And he was throwing so well that you didn't want to pull him, but (the rally) allowed us to go to the pen. We had some good at-bats in some key situations.

"You have to tip your hat to him. Both pitchers were outstanding."

Austin Harrison was equally as effective for Meridian (24-11, 12-6), throwing 6 1/3 innings and allowing just two earned runs.

"I thought he was great," Sudduth said of his pitcher. "I thought he was really good. He commanded all his pitches and made some big pitches when he had. That's something that we can definitely build off of."

Cody Daigle, T.J. Lockett each recorded RBI hits, while Snypes had two RBIs in the win for ECCC.

In Game 1, Meridian exploded for six runs in the top of the first, added two more in the third and held off East Central for an 8-3 win.

The Eagles leaned on Bryant Johnson, Jonahtan Porter and Ryan Lane to limit East Central to eight hits and just two earned runs, with Porter (2-0) earning the win.

"I thought our bullpen was really good," Sudduth said. "I thought we got a great start from Lane – he's coming back from a back injury – and then I thought our bullpen was good for us."

Daniel Hill led Meridian with three hits, including an RBI triple in the third. Jaylon Keys launched his third home run of the season to start of the inning.

Jared Savell and Goose Yates each tallied two hits and a RBI, while Andrew Cook smacked a run-scoring double, and Dalton Thomas Thomas added an RBI base hit.

"It's always good to throw the first punch," Sudduth said. "But we could have done a better job adding on and expanding the lead. If you let a good team hang around, anything can happen."

East Central went through four pitchers before Joshua Carpenter took over with one out in the third. The 6-foot-5, 240-pound freshman pitcher tossed 4 1/3 innings, tallying three strikeouts and limited the Eagles to just five hits and zero runs.

"He's been very good for us all year," Holliman said. "He's been great out of the pen. I didn't want to go to him early, but he gave us an opportunity to get back in the game. We just couldn't get back into it."

East Central will be back in action Saturday when it hosts Northeast Mississippi Community College.

"We're not playing that well right now," Holliman said. "And it's been that way for about a week and a half now. It's been a little bit of a struggle and a grind. We should get healthy soon, then hopefully we can catch some momentum and get going."

Meanwhile, Meridian travels to Holmes Community College Saturday.

"It's going to be a tough test for us," Sudduth said. "It's important for us to get some rest, flush these games away, come back (today) and get better."

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WEEK OF April 5, 2015

Eagles, Warriors split

MCC takes Game 1, ECCC responds with Game 2 win

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

Meridian Community College's Jaylon Keys turns the double play as he forces out East Central Community College's Matthew Mitchell Wednesday.

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WEEK OF April 5, 2015

East Central hosts all-star game

East Central Community College will host the inaugural East Central Mississippi High School All-Star Basketball Games on Thursday, April 9.

The women's contest begins at 6 p.m. and will be followed by the men's match-up at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $7 for adult and $5 for students.

Participants will be divided into North and South teams, based on the location of their schools.

Members of the South women's squad and their respective high schools are Holly Hendershot, Scott Central; Kim Maira Jackson, Forest; Chante Deering and Chelsi White, both of Morton; Shadejha Brown, Lake; and Alexis Burks, Sebastopol.

South men's team members include Joe Young and Patavius Luckett, both of Forest; Devonta Jones, Morton; and Kartavious Hunt, Lake.

North men's squad includes Josh Crutcher, Sebastopol.

For more information, call (601) 635-6372 or (601) 635-6370.

BILLY FREEMAN

Sebastopol Bobcats' Colton Tharp watches the ball into his glove on a play in recent action. The Bobcats entered this week's action with a 9-2 record.

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WEEK OF April 5, 2015

Warriors split baseball

By ECCC Sports Information

The East Central Community College Warriors jumped out to a 5-0 lead in Game 2 and hung on for a 5-4 win over the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wolves to salvage a split in doubleheader action March 31 in Wesson.

Co-Lin won the first game over East Central 8-4.

Coach Neal Holliman's Warriors are now 17-9 overall and 10-4 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges league play.

Despite outhitting Co-Lin 9-6 in Game 1, ECCC wasn't able to muster enough runs in the 8-4 loss.

T.J. Lockett led the Warriors going 2-3 at the plate with an RBI and run scored. Cody Daigle had two hits in four trips to the plate, including a double.

Ben Cooley added a two-run homer in the top of the sixth for the Warriors.

Matt Mitchell of Lake High School took the loss on the mound, giving up five runs on two hits and six walks in two and one third innings of work.

doubleheader at Co-Lin

East Central plated three runs in the second inning and added two in the fourth in the nightcap to jump out to a 5-0 lead over the Wolves and an eventual 5-4 victory.

Peyton Owen picked up the start and the win, throwing four innings and giving up just one run on two hits.

Mitchell was 2-4 at the plate in Game 2 with two RBIs.

Dylan Snypes added two singles and an RBI, and Lane Fazende of Pearl River Central High School had a double and a single.

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WEEK OF ~~April~~ March 29, 2015

ECCC Warriors drop doubleheader to Hinds

The East Central Community College Diamond Warriors fell 3-2 in 11 innings against No. 1-ranked Hinds Community College Wednesday, March 25, in the first game of a doubleheader held at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex in Decatur.

The Warriors lost game two 4-3.

After the visiting Eagles jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in game one, ECCC's Chance Whitten hit a solo home run in the bottom of the second inning and the Warriors scored again in the seventh to even the score. The Eagles scored the winning run in the top of the 11th off a solo homer by Marshall Boggs.

Whitten, a product South Panola High School, also had a double and an RBI to lead the Warrior offense.

Other hitters were Michael Davis of Clinton, two singles; Cody Daigle of Parkview Baptist High School in Addis, La., double; and Dylan Little and T.J. Lockett of Bibb County High School in Brent, Ala., each with a single.

Scoring runs were Davis and Whitten.

Lane Fazende took the loss for East Central. He allowed one earned run on three hits in three innings. He struck out five batters.

In game two, the Warriors rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh but it was not enough as they fell 4-3.

Davis had a single to give the Warriors their only hit in the game.

RBI's were credited to Matt Mitchell of Lake and Little.

Runs were scored by Whitten, Dylan Snypes and Todd Hughes.

Will Myers of Leake Academy was the losing pitcher. He allowed two earned runs on six hits in four innings. He struck out five batters.

The Diamond Warriors, now 14-8 overall and 7-3 in division play, were to host Mississippi Delta Community College March 28, at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex.

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'EEK OF March 29 2015

East Central CC sweeps Mississippi Delta

From school reports

The East Central Community College Warriors pounded out 21 hits and 17 runs en route to a sweep of Mississippi Delta Community College in a baseball doubleheader on the Decatur Campus March 28.

With the wins, the Warriors improved to 16-8 overall and 9-3 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges league play.

In a 6-2 game one win that saw five lead changes, East Central took the lead for good with a three-run seventh inning that featured RBI singles by Michael Davis and Chance Whitten. Dylan Little led the Warriors offensively going 3-4 at the plate with two RBIs and a run scored. Cody Daigle added a double and a single in four trips to the plate and an RBI for ECCC.

Hunter Thrower of Southeast Lauderdale High School (2), Ben Cooley, T.J. Lockett, Will Kennedy, and Matt Mitchell of Lake High School all singled.

Channing Wall got the win on the mound in relief, allowing one run on one hit in 2 2/3 innings. He struck out five Mississippi Delta batters.

East Central dropped Mississippi Delta 11-4 in game two after exploding for seven runs in the third inning.

Josh Carpenter got the win for the Warriors, allowing no hits and no runs in his two innings on the mound.

At the plate, the Warriors were led by Whitten who was 2-3 with two RBIs. Little and Lane Fazende each added a double and an RBI. Cooley, Thrower, Mitchell and Dylan Snypes all had singles.

The Warriors return home Friday, April 3, to host East Mississippi Community College in a doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m.

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WEEK OF March 31 ~~April 5~~, 2018

Alderman signs with East Central

Newton County Academy Senior Ty Alderman, seated, center, has signed a letter of intent to play baseball for the East Central Community College Warriors. Alderman leads the Generals in batting with a .485 average. He has 16 hits, including nine singles, four doubles, two triples and a home run. In 40 at-bats, he has yet to strike out. Defensively, Alderman has started every game at the catcher. He has thrown out 10 of 12 runners attempting to steal. Pictured with him are, seated, his parents Kelly and Sha Alderman of Decatur, and back row, NCA baseball coach Ryan Glover and Alderman's brother Kemp Alderman.

Submitted photo

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WEEK OF March 22, 2015

Diamond Warriors sweep Holmes CC

From school reports

The East Central Community Diamond Warrior baseball team swept Holmes Community College in doubleheader action Saturday in Goodman to improve their record to 14-6 overall and 7-1 in division competition.

In Game 1, East Central jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the top of the third and scored three more runs in the eighth to claim the victory over the host Bulldogs.

Cody Daigle went 4-5 at the plate, including three doubles, and had one RBI to lead Warrior offense. Daigle is a sophomore infielder and product of Parkview Baptist High School in Addis, La.

Other hitters were Dylan Snypes of Wayne County, triple and single; Jacob Huff of Brandon and Ben Cooley of South Jones, each with two singles; and Hunter Thrower of Southeast Lauderdale, Dylan Little of Mary G. Montgomery in Mobile, Ala., Kyle McCullouch of Madison Ridgeland Academy and Michael Davis of Clinton, each with a single.

In addition to Daigle, RBIs were credited to Davis with two Little and McCullouch with one apiece.

Scoring runs were Little with two, and Thrower, Daigle and Snypes with one each.

Colby Eaves, a right-handed pitcher from Nanih Waiya, got the win for East Central. He allowed two earned runs on three hits in 4 1/3 innings. He struck out four batters and walked three.

The Warriors rallied for a 4-2 win in the nightcap thanks to a two-run triple by Little in the seventh inning. He also tallied a single.

Daigle again had an outstanding offensive game hitting 3-4, including two home runs and a single.

Additional hitters were Matt Mitchell of Lake, double and single; and Thrower, Davis and Snypes, singles each.

RBIs were credited to Little and Daigle, who both had two.

Runs were scored by Daigle, Mitchell and Thrower.

Peyton Owen recorded the win for ECCC, allowing two earned runs on three hits in 3 1/3 innings of work. He struck out one batter and walked one. Owen is a product of Stone County High School.

ECCC will host Mississippi Delta Community College in a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday.

More Information

Southeast Lauderdale alumnus Hunter Thrower had singles in both games of ECCC's sweep.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF March 15, 2015

East Central baseball sweeps Pearl River CC

From school reports

POPLARVILLE — East Central Community College's baseball team swept Pearl River Community College in doubleheader action Tuesday.

In Game 1, outfielder Kyle McCullouch of Madison Ridgeland Academy had three extra-base hits to lead the Warrior offense in a 10-6 victory over the Wildcats.

The game was tied 4-4 in the top of the seventh with one out when McCullouch homered and also scored Dylan Little, a product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala. McCullough also had two doubles and tallied three RBIs in the win. Little had two singles.

Other hitters were Dylan Snypes of Wayne County and Ben Cooley of South Jones, each with a double; and Cody Daigle of Parkview Baptist in Addis, La., Michael Davis of Clinton, Chance Whitten of South Panola and Jacob Huff of Brandon, singles each.

Also collecting RBIs were Huff with two and Whitten and Cooley with one apiece.

Scoring runs were McCullouch with three, Little with two and Davis, Huff, Snypes, Cooley and Will Kennedy of Union with one each.

Channing Wall, a right-handed pitcher from Louisville, got the win for East Central. He allowed four earned runs on five hits in 3 2/3 innings. He struck out three batters and walked one.

The Warriors held on for an 8-7 win in the nightcap thanks again to McCullouch, who hit a three-run homer in the seventh to put the Warriors on top.

Additional hitters were Daigle, two singles; Hunter Thrower of Southeast Lauderdale, Matt Mitchell of Lake and Whitten, each with a double; and Davis and Snypes, singles each.

RBIs were credited to McCullouch with four and Daigle and Thrower with one apiece.

Runs were scored by Thrower, who had three, as well as Mitchell, Little, Daigle, McCullouch and Snypes, who all had one each.

Lane Fazende recorded the win for ECCC, allowing one earned run on five hits in two and a third innings of work. Fazende is a product of Pearl River Central High School.

The Diamond Warriors (12-6, 5-1) travel to Holmes Community College Saturday for doubleheader action beginning at 1 p.m. on the Goodman campus.

ECCC hosts Hinds Community College in a doubleheader beginning at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 25.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 1, 2015

Clark signs with East Central

Neshoba Central senior baseball standout Brandon Clark signed to continue his career at East Central Community College. His Junior season as a Rocket, he finished with a .313 batting average, 26 Hits, 20 Runs, 16 RBIs, 10 2B and 1 HR. He saw action for the Rockets as catcher, 3B, and on the mound. Front, from left are Eric Clark, father, Brandon Clark, mother, Stacie Clark; back row: Asst. Principal LaShon Horne, Rocket Head Baseball Coach Justin Stovall, Assistant Baseball Coach Taylor Petty, and Asst. Principal Jimmy Buchanan.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF _____

Expectations high for Warriors

From school reports

Building on the success of last year's team, which advanced to the Region 23 and MACJC Conference tournaments, head coach Neal Holliman expects his 2015 East Central Community College Diamond Warriors to be competitors.

"Our expectations have grown to where we expect to be a contender each year, but we don't take that for granted. We understand there are many talented and well-coached teams in this league and you have to be willing to prepare, be committed and be able to execute under pressure to be one of the last team's standing," said Holliman, now in his ninth season at the helm.

Although the Warriors will have a few hurdles to overcome, including a mostly freshman pitching staff, Holliman said he believes his team has the talent to put themselves in position for another championship run.

"This team has already experienced some growing pains; however, they continue to strive for what they have set as individual and team goals," Holliman said.

In addition to their objectives on the field, the Diamond Warriors are also working to maintain the high academic standards for which they have become known.

"Our team once again posted a 3.11 GPA (grade point average) this fall, which will help us maintain our national academic ranking. We have been in the top 25 academically for the past five years," Holliman said.

Top returnees for ECCC include third baseman Dylan Little, a product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala.; short stop/second baseman Hunter Thrower of Southeast Lauderdale; designated hitter/first baseman Cody Daigle of Parkview Baptist High School in Baton Rouge, La.; first baseman/outfielder Chance Whitten, a product of South Panola High School; right fielder Kyle McCullouch of Madison-Ridgeland Academy; and catcher Todd Hughes of Clarkdale High School.

ECCC Baseball Schedule

MARCH			
3	Northwest	Decatur	1 p.m. (1 x 9)
3	Jones	Decatur	6 p.m. (1 x 7)
7	Northwest	Senatobia	2 p.m. (9 x 7)
11	Jones	Decatur	3 p.m. (9 x 7)
14	Coahoma	Clarksdale	12 noon (9 x 7)
17	Pearl River	Poplarville	4 p.m. (9 x 7)
21	Holmes	Goodman	1 p.m. (9 x 7)
25	Hinds	Decatur	3 p.m. (9 x 7)
28	MS Delta	Decatur	2 p.m. (9 x 7)
31	Co-Lin	Wesson	4 p.m. (9 x 7)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Feb. 22, 2015

EC baseball grabs two in Rush tourney

From school reports

The East Central Community College baseball team grabbed a pair of wins during the annual Rush Invitational Tournament, held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21, on the Decatur campus. Games scheduled for Sunday were canceled due to inclement weather.

The Warriors defeated Jeff Davis Community College 6-1 in game one and held on for a 3-2 win against Faulkner State Community College in the night cap.

Ben Cooley tallied two RBIs on three hits, including a double and two singles, to lead the Warrior offense in game one. Cooley is a sophomore outfielder/pitcher and a product of South Jones High School.

Other hitters were Chance Whitten of South Panola, double and single; Kyle McCullouch of Madison Ridgeland Academy, double; and Dylan Little, a product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala., Cody Daigle of Parkview Baptist in Addis, La., Michael Davis of Clinton, and Dylan Snypes of Wayne County, each with a single.

McCullouch had two RBIs and Davis registered one.

Scoring runs were Cooley (2) and Hunter Thrower (2) of Southeast Lauderdale, Daigle and McCullouch.

Starter Colby Eaves of Nanih Waiya got the win. The right-hander allowed no earned runs on four hits through six innings. He fanned two batters and walked two.

East Central took an early 1-0 lead in the first inning and scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth to claim the victory in game two.

Little was the offensive leader scoring one run on two hits, including a double and a single. He also had two RBIs.

Additional hitters were Cooley and Thrower, each with two singles; and Daigle and Lane Fazende of Pearl River Central, each with a single.

Cooley also scored two runs.

Fazende was the winning pitcher and allowed no runs and no hits in the game's final two innings. He struck out one batter.

Starter Will Myers held on for seven innings, allowing one earned run on four hits. He fanned six batters and walked three.

The Diamond Warriors were scheduled to play East Mississippi Community College Wednesday, Feb. 25, but the game has been canceled due to expected inclement weather.

East Central hosts Itawamba Community College and Southeast Iowa Community College Friday, February 28 at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex on the Decatur campus.

EC's Diamond Warriors begin Friday's action with an 11 a.m. matchup against Southeast Iowa, followed by a 2 p.m. game against Itawamba. Itawamba and Southeast Iowa battle at 4:30 p.m.

East Central's baseball program is led by head coach Neal Holliman and assistant Jake Rowell.

ECCC softball sweeps twin bill with Alabama Southern

East Central Community College's Lady Diamond Warriors jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning and exploded for seven runs in the second to defeated Alabama Southern Community College 9-0 in game one of a doubleheader Tuesday, Feb. 17, on the Decatur Campus. ECCC completed the sweep by defeating the Lady Eagles 7-2 in game two.

ECCC now holds an 8-2 overall record.

Caitlyn Aldous was the offensive leader for the Lady Warriors in game one. She had a double and single and three RBIs.

Other hitters were Anna Katherine Nowell of Leake Academy, double and single; Andi Hannaford, a product of Magnolia Heights School, and Karoline Holsonback of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., each with a double; and Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, and Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove, each with a single.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Feb. 15, 2015

Spirit of Morton

ECCC Hosts Annual Rush Invitational

A weekend of community college baseball is on tap Friday through Sunday, Feb. 20-22, when East Central Community College hosts the 2015 Rush Invitational at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex on the Decatur campus.

EC's Diamond Warriors begin Friday's action with a noon matchup against Jeff Davis Community College. Jeff Davis takes on Faulkner State at 3 p.m. and will be followed by the East Central/Faulkner State battle at 5:30 p.m.

Games scheduled Saturday include Kaskaskia College vs. Faulkner State at 11 a.m.; Baton Rouge vs. Faulkner State at 1:30 p.m.; Kaskaski vs. Wallace State at 4 p.m.; and Baton Rouge vs. Wallace State at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday contests include East Central vs. Kaskaskia at noon; Baton Rouge vs. Kaskaskia at 3 p.m. and East Central vs. Baton Rouge at 5:30 p.m.

All EC games are nine-inning contests. The other matchups are seven-inning battles.

Admission is $5 each day.

For more information, contact Neal Holliman, ECCC head baseball coach, 601-635-6374 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 374. His e-mail address is nholliman@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Feb 1, 2015

DECATUR — Building on the success of last year's team, which advanced to the Region 23 and MACJC Conference tournaments, head coach Neal Holliman expects his 2015 East Central Community College Diamond Warriors to be competitors.

"Our expectations have grown to where we expect to be a contender each year, but we don't take that for granted. We understand there are many talented and well-coached teams in this league and you have to be willing to prepare, be committed and be able to execute under pressure to be one of the last team's standing," said Holliman, now in his ninth season at the helm.

The Diamond Warriors begin season action Tuesday, Feb. 10, as they travel to Lawson State Community College in Birmingham, Ala., in doubleheader action starting at noon.

The home opener is scheduled Friday, Feb. 13 against St. Louis Community College. First pitch is set for 2 p.m. at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex.

Although the Warriors will have a few hurdles to overcome, including a mostly freshman pitching staff, Holliman said he believes his team has the talent to put themselves in position for another championship run.

"This team has already experienced some growing pains; however, they continue to strive for what they have set as individual and team goals," Holliman said.

More Information

The ECCC baseball team had an average 3.11 grade-point average in the fall.

In addition to their objectives on the field, the Diamond Warriors are also working to maintain the high academic standards for which they have become known.

"Our team once again posted a 3.11 GPA (grade point average) this fall, which will help us maintain our national academic ranking. We have been in the top 25 academically for the past five years," Holliman said.

Top returnees for ECCC include third baseman Dylan Little, a product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala.; short stop/second baseman Hunter Thrower of Southeast Lauderdale; designated hitter/first baseman Cody Daigle of Parkview Baptist High School in Baton Rouge, La.; first baseman/outfielder Chance Whitten, a product of South Panola High School; right fielder Kyle McCullouch of Madison-Ridgeland Academy; and catcher Todd Hughes of Clarkdale High School.

"All of these young men were starters for us last year and we expect their experience and leadership to really pay dividends," Holliman said.

Other returnees include outfielders Ben Cooley of South Jones and Reagan Warren of Newton County, pitchers Colby Eaves of Nanih Waiya, Will Myers of Leake Academy and Zach Mowdy of Union; and pitcher/catcher Lane Fazende, a product of Pearl River Central High School.

"Cooley played part time as a freshman, but is really growing into his ability as a sophomore," Holliman said. "Warren red-shirted last season and has continued to get stronger. Eaves returns after red-shirting due to injury and should be a main factor on the mound. Myers, Fazende and Mowdy are the only returning pitchers and all are expected to make a contribution either as starters or in relief appearances."

Freshman players and their respective high schools include pitchers Channing Wall, Louisville; Peyon Lott, Seminary; Jonathan Simpson, Monroe Academy (Ala.); Peyton Owen, Stone; Peyton Cain, Newton County; and Josh Carpenter, Winona; pitcher/third baseman Taylor Creighton, Quitman; pitcher/outfielder Matthew Mitchell, Lake; outfielders Johntrell Pickens, Philadelphia; Jacob Huff, Puckett; and T.J. Lockett, Bibb County High School (Ala.) catcher Michael Davis, Clinton; short stop Dylan Snypes, Wayne County; third baseman/second baseman Billy Cameron, Mendenhall; and second baseman/catcher Will Kennedy, Union.

"We expect significant contributions from many of our freshman players and will rely heavily on some quality innings from our young pitchers," Holliman said.

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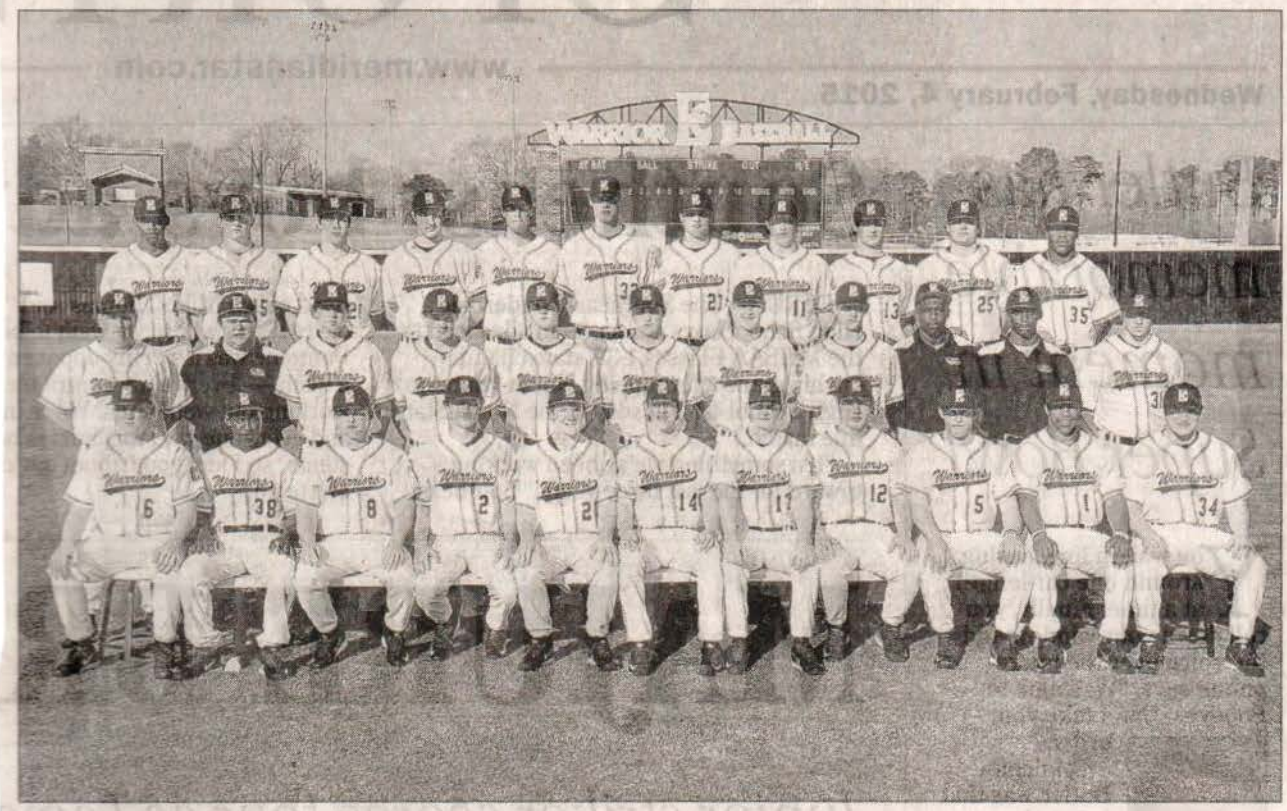
WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

THE MERIDIAN STAR
Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Expectations high for ECCC



Special to The Star

Ready to begin the 2015 campaign are the above members of East Central Community College's baseball squad. Team members and their respective high schools are (first row, from left) pitcher (6) Zach Mowdy, Union; outfielder (38) Johntrell Pickens, Philadelphia; short stop/second baseman (8) Hunter Thrower, Southeast Lauderdale; pitcher (2) Channing Wall, Louisville; pitcher (20) Mason Wooldridge, West Lauderdale; catcher (14) Todd Hughes, Clarkdale; outfielder (17) Jacob Huff, Brandon; catcher/pitcher (12) Lane Fazende, Pearl River Central; outfielder (5) Reagan Warren, Newton County; outfielder (1) Ben Cooley, South Jones; and catcher (34) Michael Davis, Clinton; (second row, from left) head coach Neal Holliman, manager Christopher Yarbrough of Florence, infielder (7) Dylan Snypes, Wayne County; pitcher/outfielder (19) Matthew Mitchell, Lake; pitcher (36) Peyton Cain, Newton County; infielder/catcher (18) William Kennedy, Union; infielder (10) Dylan Little, Mary G. Montgomery (Semmes, Ala.); pitcher (42) Peyton Lott, Seminary; mangers Titus Benson of Grenada and Brandon Lewis of South Jones; and assistant coach Jake Rowell; and (back row, from left) outfielder (4) T.J. Lockett, Bibb County (Brent, Ala.); pitcher (15) Jonathan Simpson, Monroe Academy (Frisco City, Ala.); pitcher/third baseman (28) Taylor Creighton, Quitman; pitcher (22) Colby Eaves, Nanih Waiya; outfielder/first baseman (33) Chance Whitten, South Panola; pitcher (32) Peyton Owen, Stone County; pitcher (23) Joshua Carpenter, Winona; outfielder (11) Kyle McCullouch, Madison Ridgeland Academy; pitcher/outfielder (13) Will Myers, Leake Academy; third baseman/first baseman (25) Cody Daigle, Parkview Baptist (Addison, La.); and catcher/infielder (35) Billy Cameron, Mendenhall.

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL

CLARION-LEDGER

WEEK OF Oct. 11, 2015

ECCC Baseball Players Read to Area Children

Peyton Cain was among East Central Community College student-athletes who recently participated in a community service project at Union Elementary School. Cain was among several Warrior baseball players who read books to students from pre-school through third grades and answered questions about the ECCC baseball team. Cain is a product of Newt County High School. Neal Holliman is beginning his 10 year as head coach of the ECCC baseball team. (EC Phot

APPEARED IN:

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Dec. 13

ECCC BASEBALL

East Central baseball standouts signing National Letters of Intent to play at four-year colleges and universities are, from left, Peyton Cain, a pitcher from Newton County High School, University of Tennessee at Martin; Michael Davis, a catcher from Clinton High School, Southern Arkansas University; Matt Mitchell, a pitcher and outfielder from Lake High School, Delta State University; Dylan Snypes, an infielder from Wayne County High School, Oral Roberts University; and Channing Wall, a pitcher from Louisville High School, University of North Alabama.

EC Photo

Players sign with four-year colleges

By ECCC sports information

Five East Central Warriors inked national letters of intent during the November signing period to continue their baseball careers next fall at four-year colleges and universities.

Peyton Cain, a right-handed pitcher from Newton County High School, signed with the University of Tennessee-Martin; Michael Davis, a catcher from Clinton, signed with Southern Arkansas University; Matt Mitchell, a left-handed pitcher and outfielder from Lake High School, signed with Delta State University; Dylan Snypes, a shortstop from Wayne County High School, signed with Oral Roberts University; and Channing Wall, a pitcher from Louisville High School, signed with the University of

I schools. Southern Arkansas, Delta State, and North Alabama are NCAA Division II.

"All five of these young men are going to make significant impacts for us this upcoming season," said ECCC Head Baseball Coach Neal Holliman.

Cain pitched 21.2 innings over 12 games last season for East Central.

"Peyton still has room to grow and will be a major factor for us on the mound this year," noted Holliman. "He came to us out of high school as a strike thrower and has continually increased his velocity, while developing a sinker. All aspects of his game have continued to improve as he matures as a pitcher, and we expect him to be in the starting rotation this upcoming spring."

was fourth on the team in hits with 40. He committed only four errors in 276 chances behind the plate.

Mitchell pitched 23 innings in nine games, including three starts last season. He also played 18 games in the outfield, batting .316 with eight RBI.

"Matt continues to develop in all phases of the game," said Holliman. "He is one of the best individuals and competitors we have ever had in our program. He provides a lot of versatility as a player in the fact he can play two of the three outfield positions, hits from the left side of the plate, and is a quality left-handed arm off the mound."

Snypes played in 38 games for East Central last season, batting .275 with four doubles and 11 RBI.

Wall pitched in 13 games

APPEARED IN:

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April 12, 2015

East Central players compete in all-stars

East Central Community College players recently competed in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-Star Basketball Games on April 10. Pictured are, from left, head men's coach Robert Thompson, Kristian Clark, Ramone Tate, Tynika Bender, Tashi-ana Thompson, Jaleshia Jones and head women's coach Crandal Porter. Clark and Tate both scored 6 points in helping the South men to a 123-117 win over the North. Thompson scored 7 points, Jones 6 and Bender 3 to lead the South women to an 85-69 victory over the North squad.

Submitted photo

EC concert band, percussion ensemble to perform

DECATUR — The East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Band will conclude the spring performance season Thursday, April 23, when the Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble perform at 6:30 p.m. in Huff Auditorium.

There is no charge for admission and the public is invited.

"In the past, these two groups would perform on separate nights," said Director of Bands Hunter Corhern. "This year, due to time constraints, we were forced to combine these concerts, so we'll have an incredible two-hour concert to wrap up our semester."

The ECCC Concert Band, under the direction of Corhern, will perform selections including "The Magnificent Seven" by Elmer Bernstein; "Flight of the Vampire" by John Prescott; "Gadget" by Randall Standridge; "Cute" by Neal Hefti; and "Pixar Movie Magic" arranged by Michael Brown.

Following the concert band, Assistant Director of Bands Ed Girling will lead the "Can Bangers" percussion ensemble in innovative, original percussion music featuring both traditional and non-traditional instruments.

The ECCC Mallet Ensemble will conclude the night's festivities with original and pop selections including "Cruzin' Jamaica," "Oyo Como Va" by Santana, "The Addams Family and Munsters," "Cantina Band" from Star Wars, "Amnesia" by 5 Seconds of Summer, "Radioactive" by Imagine Dragons, and "Classical Gas" by Mason Williams, which also features Collegians director and guitar instructor Chas Evans.

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

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WEEK OF April 12, 2015

ECCC netters advance in MACJC/NJCAA tourney

From school reports

TUPELO — Two East Central Community College Lady Warrior tennis players have advanced in singles to the semifinals of 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 tennis tournaments at Rob Leake City Park.

Hannah Peoples of Leake Academy at No. 2 Singles and Kaley Bufkin of Newton County High School at No. 4 Singles both won their quarterfinal matches on the first day of competition Thursday to advance to the semifinals, which were played Friday. Peoples and Mackie Smith of Newton County High School won their match at No. 2 Doubles to reach quarterfinal competition.

All three East Central men's doubles teams are in quarterfinal action. Juan Miranda of Morton High School and Robert Strong of Forest High School won at No. 1 Doubles Thursday to advance. Javon Yarbrough of Louisville High School and Devin Skinner of Neshoba Central High School at No. 2 Doubles and Cole Duty of Winston Academy and Alex Chapman of Mary G. Montgomery High School (Semmes, Ala.) at No. 3 Doubles begin their tournament play in the quarterfinals.

Mann headed to Community College HOF

From school reports

DECATUR — Marcus Mann of Carthage, a 1994 graduate of East Central Community College, will be inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame during ceremonies April 28 on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College.

A native of Carthage and a graduate of South Leake High School, Mann helped lead East Central to its first state championship in men's basketball in 40 years in 1993. He was a First Team All-American selection and was twice named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region 23 and All-State teams.

Mann

Mann was inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004. He is also a member of the East Central Academic Hall of Fame.

Mann went on to star for Mississippi Valley State University, leading the Delta Devils to the Southwest Athletic Conference title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament against Georgetown University his senior season. He was selected SWAC Player of the Year and led NCAA Division I in rebounding.

After graduation from Mississippi Valley State University, he was selected by the Golden State Warriors in the 1996 National Basketball Association draft as the 11th pick in the second round and the 40th selection overall.

After reaching his goal of being a player in the NBA, Mann decided to follow a call to become an ordained minister. He currently serves as pastor of First Baptist M.B. Church in Carthage and is a full-time chaplain for Tyson Foods, Inc., in Forest.

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WEEK OF April 19, 2015

Mann gets induction to JUCO Hall of Fame

Marcus Mann of Carthage, a 1994 graduate of East Central Community College, will be inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame during ceremonies April 28 on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College.

A native of Carthage and a graduate of South Leake High School, Mann helped lead East Central to its first state championship in men's basketball in 40 years in 1993. He was a First Team All-American selection and was twice named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region 23 and All-State teams.

Mann was inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004. He is also a member of the East Central Academic Hall of Fame.

MANN

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APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓✓

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WEEK OF May 10, 2015

Bender signs hoops scholarship

East Central's Tynika Bender (seated, right) has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at Tougaloo College. Bender, a 5-4 point guard and product of Newton High School, averaged 10.5 points, 5.4 assists and 3.8 steals per game last season. She was selected to play in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-Star Game. Bender is shown with (seated, left) her mother, Sheila Curry; and (standing, from left) ECCC Head Women's Basketball Coach Crandal Porter and Tougaloo Head Women's Basketball Coach Yolanda Cartlidge.

EC Photo

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

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WEEK OF May 17, 2015

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New Hope standout Johnson signs with East Tennessee State

May 21, 2015 11:16:05 PM

It's hard to be patient when you're traveling trying to find the right fit.

But after waiting most of the school year to secure a score on the ACT that helped him become eligible to play Division I basketball, Shemar Johnson didn't mind researching and examining schools to make sure he found the right fit.

The only trouble is Johnson achieved his eligibility at such a late date that a number of schools that were interested in him already had moved on.

When you have as much potential as Johnson, though, there are going to be plenty of schools waiting to see if they can land a sleeper.

On Thursday, New Hope High's Johnson helped East Tennessee State University become the school that earned that distinction when he signed a National Letter of Intent to play for new men's basketball coach Steve Forbes at the Division I school in Johnson City, Tennessee.

"I feel real good," Johnson said. "It is a good feeling. I can't explain it.

"I have been working for this all my life, this and the NBA."

Johnson said he visited Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, ETSU, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. He said he also had planed to visit Utah State and Central Florida, but he decided against it.

Johnson said the final decision proved to be difficult. The number of phone calls and text messages he and his family received combined with the pressure of the choice made it easy for

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SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

Other ✓

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

pg. 2

Johnson to be happy when he finally picked a school.

"It was crazy," Johnson said. "It went on like that ever since I got my score on the ACT."

Johnson, a 6-foot-7, 185-pound swingman, averaged 16.5 points, 6.4 rebounds, 2.7 assists, and 3.1 steals per game this past season for the Trojans, who went 22-8 this past season. New Hope lost to Center Hill in the second round of the Mississippi High School Activities Association Class 5A State tournament.

Last month, New Hope senior point guard Jaylon Bardley signed with East Central Community College in Decatur. New Hope coach Drew McBrayer also hopes senior guard Demyis Mayberry will get a chance to play basketball in college.

Bardley, Johnson, Mayberry, and Terryonte Thomas played integral roles in a balanced offense in which all of the players had their chances to shine.

One of Johnson's biggest moments came in a 58-56 victory against Meridian in the 18th-annual Joe Horne Columbus Christmas Invitational. Johnson scored 19 of his 27 points in the second half to help New Hope rally from an 18-point deficit.

On the second day of the event the following evening, Johnson, a member of The Clarion-Ledger's Dandy Dozen team, had 21 points in a 70-69 victory against Columbus 70-69.Â

McBrayer said Johnson blossomed into a better rebounder late in the season, but his forte was scoring. McBrayer said Johnson didn't receive his first scholarship offer until two weeks ago. He said he finished with 10 scholarship offers.

"There were definitely you could see it in his eyes," McBrayer said. "It was time for him to go (against Meridian) and you could see it in his eyes. There were times he literally threw us on his back and willed us in to win."

With a solid core of players for the past two years, McBrayer said Johnson grew more comfortable in his role. He said Johnson matured and understood he needed to continue to push hard because he hadn't secured a scholarship offer.

"Some kids go into their senior year already having an opportunity and already having signed somewhere," McBrayer said. "He wasn't there yet, so he still had to prove himself, which I think helped him in the long run because he had to fight and claw for it to make sure we got there.

"You get so late in the process and a lot of the schools drop out. Like you said, it is fingers and toes crossed. We knew he was going to play college basketball next year, whether it be at the Division I level or the junior college level.

"We hoped he would be able to make it to where he was, and he gets his scores (on the standardized test) back and everything falls into place."

Johnson said he listened to his mother, Phebie, who encouraged him and urged him to stay positive. McBrayer said Johnson found that balance on and off the court and was able to lift his grades and his score on the standardized test to open the door for Division I schools to scramble to try to secure his skills. McBrayer said Johnson has a frame that easily should be able to add 25-30 pounds.

"He has a great frame on him," McBrayer said. "He will get in a nutrition program and in a strength program. With his size and his skill level and his ability, that is the only thing lacking from him right now is that weight and strength. Once he gets it, that kid will be tough to stop."

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WEEK OF March 22, 2015

Winston County Journal

East Central hosts MACJC All-Star Basketball

From school reports

East Central Community College in Decatur is again serving as host site for the annual MACJC (Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges) All-Star Basketball Games.

This year's event is set for Friday, April 10. The women's contest begins at 5 p.m. and will be followed by the men's matchup at the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Members of the South Division women's squad are Claresa Banks and Tyra Gibson, both of Copiah-Lincoln; Tynika Bender and Jaleshia Jones, both of East Central; Sh'Nika Smith, Hinds; Starla Daggans and Kadie Parker, both of Jones; Miaya Crowder and Londyn Thomas, both of Meridian; Kalynn Smith, MS Gulf Coast; Essence Pulliam, Pearl River; and Talisa Sherman, Southwest.

Alternates are Shakerya Morrison and Tashi-Ana Thompson, both of East Central; and Alyson Johnson of Jones.

Gwyn Young of Copiah-Lincoln will serve as head coach.

South Division men's team includes Terry Morris of Copiah-Lincoln; Quinton Campbell of East Central; LaDarrius Drain, Hinds; Bryce Jones, Chris White and Otis Harvey, all of Jones; Brandon Daniels, Meridian; Jamarri Johnson, Michael Lewis and Justin Coleman, all of MS Gulf Coast; and Jaylen Moore and Trent Jeffries, both of Southwest.

Alternates are Jordan Lumpkins of Co-Lin; Kristian Clark of East Central; and Rodrique Palmer of Jones.

Kenny Bizot of Copiah-Lincoln will serve as head coach.

Members of the North Division women's team are Erica Collins, Coahoma; Bethany Lytle and Tekevanna Young, both of Northwest; Jayla Chills, Kaelin Kneeland and Jeronia Allen, all of Itawamba; Aushiana Ivy and

Games set for April 11

Daisha Williams, both of Northeast; Carmesha Nalls and LaShonda Wilson, both of Holmes; Alecha Gibbs, East MS; and Niya Head, MS Delta.

Alternates include Ashley Johnson, East MS; Jasmine Allen, Northeast; and Lanikki McMillian, Itawamba.

Danetra Forrest of Coahoma Community College will serve as head coach.

North Division men's squad includes Cameron Monix, Coahoma; Sharwyn McGee and De'Sean Dockery, both of Northwest; Austin Timms and Lakee Westbrook, both of Itawamba; Dimario Jackson and Dexter Stafford, both of Northeast; Marcus Washington and Jarvis Williams, both of Holmes; Antonio Finley and Shelvick Henry, Jr., both of East MS; and Darius Duke, MS Delta.

Alternates are Zamarius Griffin, MS Delta; Kevis Fleming, Itawamba; and Chris Rhoney, East MS.

Ira Peterson of Coahoma will serve as head coach.

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WEEK OF March 15, 2015

ECCC Lady Warriors sweep Baton Rouge

The East Central Community College Lady Warrior softball team got the sweep over Baton Rouge Community College Monday, March 16, in Decatur. With the wins, ECCC improves to 19-5 overall and 5-3 in division play.

In game one, the Lady Warriors rallied for nine runs in the fifth inning to claim a 13-5 victory.

Karoline Holsonback of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., had two singles and two RBIs to lead the Lady Warrior offense.

Additional hitters for ECCC were Summer Lavender of Canton Academy, two singles; Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia and Christen Benson of Brookhaven, each with a double; and Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point and Caitlyn Aldous of Petal, singles each.

In addition to Holsonback, RBIs were credited to Ellis (3) and Hannaford (2).

Scoring runs were Ellis (2), Benson (2), Lavender (2) Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove (2), Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale, Aldous, Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central, Mallory Lee of Quitman and Hannah Hassell of Lamar County High School in Vernon, Ala.

Lacey Hill, a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School, got the win. She allowed five earned runs on five hits in five innings. She fanned eight batters and walked two.

In the nightcap, Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy threw a no-hitter to take a 9-1 win over the Lady Bears.

Thaggard allowed one run in six innings of work. She struck out nine batters and walked two.

Turner led the EC offense as she went 2-2 and scored three runs.

Additional hitters included Ellis, double and single; Gibson, double; and Hassell, Aldous, Benson, Lavender and Rachel Davis of Petal, each with a single.

Recording RBIs were Gibson (2), Davis and Benson.

Runs were scored by Turner (3), Ellis (2), Hassell, Aldous, Duke and Lavender.

ECCC hosts Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wednesday, March 18. Doubleheader action begins at 3 and 5 p.m. on the Decatur campus.

The Lady Warriors travel to Raymond Saturday, March 21 to take on the Hinds.

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WEEK OF March 8, 2015

EC Warriors fall from Region 23 Tourney vs. HCC

After topping Jones in the Region 23 Tournament, the East Central Community College Warriors were bounced from the tournament by Holmes in the semifinals Friday.

With the loss, East Central completed the 2015 season with a 14-12 overall record under second-year head coach Robert Thompson.

The Warriors were defeated 73-64 by Holmes on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton to end the season.

Quinton Campbell, a sophomore guard/forward and product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala., had 23 points to lead the Warriors in scoring.

Other scorers were Isaiah Traylor of Tupelo, 16; Kristian Clark of St. Martin and Randy Phillips of Jackson Lanier, each with seven; Prince McDaniel of Pascagoula, six; Monte Bowie of Morton, four; and Derrick Dandridge of White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn., one.

Holmes led 33-20 at the half.

ECCC advanced to the semifinals when Campbell sank a three-pointer with 11 seconds to lift the Warriors to a 67-64 win over number two seed Jones in the first round. Campbell finished the game with 16 points and 16 rebounds.

Freshman guard Isaiah Traylor of Tupelo High School, was the leading scorer with 17 points.

Former Leake Central standout Ravion Henry had 14 points. Other scorers included Prince McDaniel of Pascagoula and Randy Phillips of Jackson Lanier, each with six; Demarkus Jones of Terry, five; and Ramone Tate of West Point, three.

The game was tied 31-31 at the half.

ECCC sets to present 'Wizard'

East Central Community College's Encore performers will present "Wizard of Oz," at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 26-28, in the Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium in Decatur.

Matinees are scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, March 24, 25 and 27.

Tickets are $10 and may be purchased by telephoning the college switchboard at 601-635-6215 or 1-877-462-3222, ext. 215.

Cast members include Houston Martin (Lion), of Edinburg; Anna Girling (The Wicked Witch), of Carthage; and Greyson Dye, (guard) of Carthage.

For more information telephone Natalie Emmons at 601-635-6347 or email nemmons@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF March 1, 2015

ECCC Squads Prepare for Region 23 Basketball Tourney

East Central Community College basketball squads have qualified to compete in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament scheduled March 4-7, 2015, at Mississippi College in Clinton.

The East Central men quailed for the single elimination event as the number seven seed and begin first-round action by taking on number two seed Jones County Junior College at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 4.

The Warriors hold a 13-12 overall mark under second-year head coach Robert Thompson. They were defeated 62-59 by Holmes Community College in first-round action of the MACJC State Tournament.

The Bobcats are 18-4 after falling to Northeast Mississippi Community College 67-62 in first-round action of the state tournament.

Other first round games on Wednesday will be Northeast Mississippi vs. Holmes at noon, Pearl River vs. Baton Rouge at 6 p.m. and East Mississippi vs. Southern-Shreveport (Louisiana) at 8 p.m.

The East Central/Jones winner plays the Holmes/Northeast winner at noon on Friday, while the Pearl River/Baton Rouge winner will face the East Mississippi/Southern-Shreveport winner at 2 p.m.The championship game will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

The Lady Warriors are the Mississippi number three seed and begin first-round action by taking on five seed Itawamba Community College at Noon Thursday.

The East Central women hold a 20-5 record under third-year head coach Crandal Porter after falling to Meridian Community College 79-77 in the semi-finals of the MACJC State Tourney.

Itawamba (20-4) was defeated by Meridian 76-74 in the opening round of the state tournament.

Other matchups in first-round women's action Thursday include Co-Lin and Holmes at 2 p.m., Meridian and Northwest at 6 p.m. and Baton Rouge (La.) and Jones at 8 p.m.

The East Central/Itawamba winner plays the Co-Lin/Holmes winner at 6 p.m. on Friday. The winner of the Meridian/Northwest match-up will face the Baton Rouge/Jones winner at 8 p.m.

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WEEK OF March 1, 2015

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EC hoopsters take on Reg. 23 tourney

East Central Community College basketball squads have qualified to compete in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament scheduled March 4-7, 2015, at Mississippi College in Clinton.

The East Central men quailed for the single elimination event as the number seven seed and were scheduled to begin first-round action by taking on number two seed Jones County Junior College at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 4.

The Warriors hold a 13-12 overall mark under second-year head coach Robert Thompson.

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The East Central/Jones winner plays the Holmes/Northeast winner at noon on Friday, while the Pearl River/Baton Rouge winner will face the East Mississippi/Southern-Shreveport winner at 2 p.m.

The championship game will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 7.

The Lady Warriors are the Mississippi number three seed and begin first-round action by taking on five seed Itawamba Community College at Noon Thursday, March 5.

The East Central women hold a 20-5 record under third-year head coach Crandal Porter after falling to Meridian Community College 79-77 in the semi-finals of the MACJC State Tourney.

Itawamba (20-4) was defeated by Meridian 76-74 in the opening round of the state tournament.

Other matchups in first-round women's action Thursday include Co-Lin and Holmes at 2 p.m., Meridian and Northwest at 6 p.m. and Baton Rouge (La.) and Jones at 8 p.m.

The East Central/Itawamba winner plays the Co-Lin/Holmes winner at 6 p.m. on Friday.

The winner of the Meridian/Northwest match-up will face the Baton Rouge/Jones winner at 8 p.m. The championship game is set for 6 p.m. Saturday.

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WEEK OF March 1, 2015

SPORTS

THE MERIDIAN STAR
Thursday, March 5, 2015

ECCC men pull off upset

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Irishma Bowie and Jones County Junior College's Zeb Rice Wednesday at Mississippi College in Clinton. Below, East Central Community College's Isaiah Taylor goes in for the shot against Jones County Junior College at Mississippi College in Clinton Wednesday.

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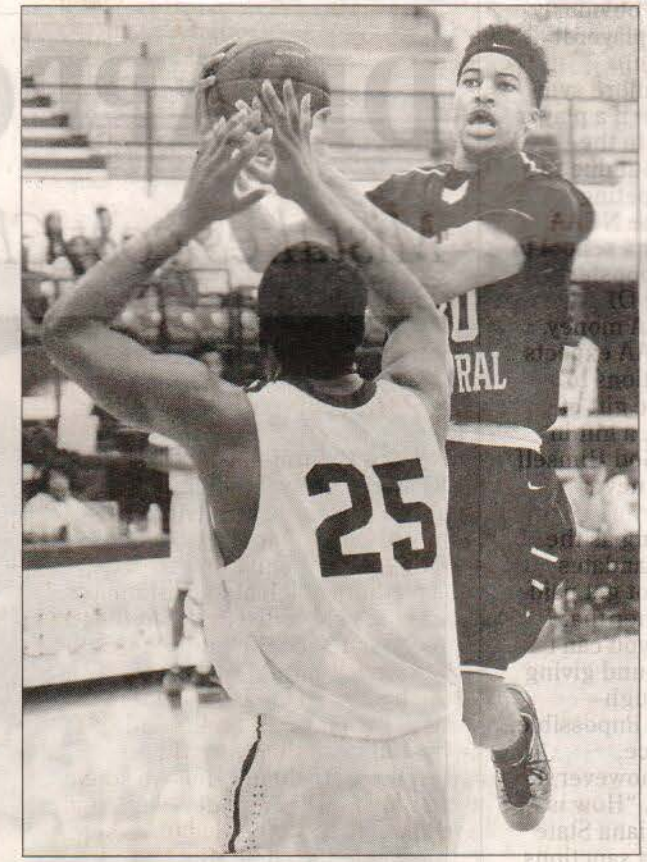
Week of March 1, 2015

pg. 2

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@
themeridianstar.com



CLINTON — The month of March is prime for upsets, hence the term, "March Madness."

On Wednesday, East Central Community College outscored Jones County Junior College 10-1 in the final three minutes and pulled off its own upset as the seventh-seeded Warriors beat the No. 2 Bobcats 67-64 at the Region 23 tournament.

"This is a big upset for our guys, and I'm really excited for them," East Central coach Robert Thompson said. "I don't think we played well offensively, but we made enough plays down the stretch."

With ECCC trailing 64-63 and 39-seconds remaining, forward Quinton Campbell lined up a shot attempt from the left wing over the Jones County zone defense and buried a 3-pointer to send his squad ahead by one.

"We wanted to be patient and set some good screens," Thompson said. "We know we have some good shooters, and we hadn't shot the ball well (Wednesday), but I have a lot of confidence in our guys. But (Campbell) made a big play, and that's what big time players are supposed to do for you."

Campbell finished the game with 16 points, including 13 in the second half, and a game-high 16 rebounds.

"I knew it was going in; I felt it was good," Campbell said of his 3-point shot.

Campbell had missed all three of 3-point attempts up until that point, but the 6-foot-7 forward had full confidence in himself on this occasion.

"I trusted it," Campbell said. "Coach (Thompson) told me to keep playing, and that it was going to come. He told me that if there was going to be a big shot to be made that I was going to hit it."

Following Campbell's clutch shot, freshman guard Isaiah Traylor stepped in front of a Bobcat player and took a charge turning the ball back over to the Warriors. Traylor was fouled on the in-bounds play and connected on 1 of 2 attempts, putting his squad ahead by three.

"It wasn't even a question; we had to get a stop," Traylor said of sacrificing his body to get the charge call. "I saw him driving, and I told myself (the referee) is either going to call a block or a charge. I got in position, and (the referee) called a charge."

Traylor led East Central with 17 points, including two 3-pointers, and grabbed five rebounds.

"I didn't think I was feeling that good on the court," Traylor said. "I give credit to my teammates, they found me when I was up. This was a team win."

Wednesday's opening-round tournament matchup featured a number of runs from both sides.

Jones County started the game on an 11-2 spurt and would lead by as many as 11 points, 20-9 before East Central got back in the game.

The Warriors outscored the Bobcats 22-11 over the final 11 minutes of the first half to tie the game at the half 31-31. The rally was highlighted Prince McDaniel one-handed slam dunk in the closing moments of the half.

After East Central took a 40-35 advantage early in the first half, Jones County ripped off 14 of the next 15 points to take a 49-41 advantage with 13 minutes remaining.

But it was East Central's final 10-1 spurt that proved to be the difference.

"I tell our kids all the time, it comes down to the team that has the will to keep fighting until the end," Thompson said. "We played together as a team, and it's "March Madness," and we saw a bit of madness today."

Ravion Henry chipped in with 14 points and five rebounds in the win.

The Warriors will play Holmes Community College at noon on Friday in second-round action.

"They beat us in the State Tournament," Thompson said. "They are an extremely tough team, and they play extremely hard. We're looking forward to the challenge."

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WEEK OF March 1, 2015

Saturday, March 7, 20

ECCC men fall to Holmes CC

From school reports

The East Central Community College men's basketball squad fell 73-64 to Holmes Community College Friday in the semifinals of the Region 23 Tournament at Mississippi College.

Quinton Campbell, a sophomore guard/forward and product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala., had 23 points to lead the Warriors in scoring.

Other scorers were Isaiah Traylor of Tupelo, 16; Kristian Clark of St. Martin and Randy Phillips of Jackson Lanier, each with seven; Prince McDaniel of Pascagoula, six; Monte Bowie of Morton, four; and Derrick Dandridge of White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn., one.

Holmes led 33-20 at the half.

East Central completes the 2015 season with a 14-12 overall record under second-year head coach Robert Thompson.

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WEEK OF _____

East Central falls to Itawamba in Region 23 to

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

CLINTON — Trailing by 14 points with five minutes remaining, East Central Community College stormed back to cut the deficit to two points, but ran out of steam as the Lady Warriors fell to Itawamba Community College 90-85 at the Region 23 tournament Thursday.

"I thought down the stretch we didn't execute well enough," East Central coach Crandal Porter said. "I thought we did some good things, but you have to give Itawamba a lot of credit; they're a well-coached team, with a lot of great players and poise."

East Central (20-6) led by as many as 11 points in the first half, and controlled a seven point halftime advantage.

However, the Lady Warriors squandered its advantage, as the Lady Indians managed to take a 59-56 lead eight minutes into the second half.

"A lot of (Itwamba guard) Jayla Chills happened," Porter said. "I don't think we were as active in our press. We should have gotten out of it and gave them a different look, and I take responsibility for that; that's my fault. They made halftime adjustments, and I didn't make one."

Chills led Itwamba with 25 points.

Sophomore Tashi-Ana Thompson led East Central with 25 points, including four 3-pointers, and dished out six assists, while Shakerya Morrison had 18 points and 18 rebounds.

"We're about fight," Porter said. "We'll fight until the end. We never think it's over, especially our five sophomores.

"(Thompson) never thinks she's taking a bad shot, and she's a scorer. She got us back in it, and, again, I thought once we got back in it, we didn't execute well

See **EAST CENTRAL** on page B2

EAST CENTRAL from page B1

enough down the stretch."

With the loss, Thompson and Morrison, alongside fellow sophomores Tynika Bender, Breona Foster and Jleshia Jones played their final games in an East Central uniform.

"East Central basketball is on the way up," Porter said. "Our goal is to win a national championship, and I think we are going to do that because of those five sophomores. They're the pillars of the program. Whatever it is that we have right now, they built it.

"The task is finding some kids that are as tough, dedicated and unselfish, and doing all those things as well as these sophomores."

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WEEK OF Feb. 22, 2015

ECCC women defeat Holmes CC, 90-69

From school reports

WESSON — The East Central Community College Lady Warrior basketball squad defeated Holmes Community College 90-69 Monday in first-round action at the MACJC State Tournament at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

With the win, the ECCC women improved to 20-4 overall and advance to semi-final competition at 1 p.m. today, where they will face Meridian Community College. MCC (17-9) upset North No. 1 seed Itawamba 76-74 in first round play.

In other first-round action, Jones County Junior College posted a 91-71 decision over Northwest, and Co-Lin whipped East Mississippi 71-48.

JCJC (17-6) will meet unbeaten and 20th-ranked Co-Lin (24-0) in a 6 p.m. semifinal today.

The championship game is set for 6 p.m. Thursday.

Shakerya Morrison pumped in 30 points to lead the Lady Warriors in scoring. The sophomore forward/center is a product of East Wake High School in Wendell, N.C.

Also scoring were Tashi-Ana Thomspon of Miller Grove High School in Lithonia, Ga., 19; Jalesia Jones of Wayne County, 15; Johnta' Hughes of Hattiesburg, nine; Tynika Bender of Newton, eight; Kalybriah Haskin of Olympian High School in San Diego, Calif., six; and Alexia McDonald of Petal, three. Jones led in rebounds with 15.

Aja Williams scored 17 points for Holmes, who fell to 16-8

EC led 56-38 at the break.

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CLARION-LEDGER

WEEK OF Feb. 22, 2015

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

EC teams advance to state tournament

From school reports

East Central Community College basketball squads have advanced to the MACJC State Tournament scheduled Monday through Thursday, Feb. 23-26 and hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

The Lady Warriors were scheduled to begin first-round action by taking on north division number three seed Holmes Community College at 2:45 p.m. Monday on the Wesson campus.

The East Central women qualified for the single elimination event as the south's number two seed with a 10-4 division mark and an overall 19-4 record under third-year head coach Crandal Porter.

Holmes finished the regular season 16-7 overall and 7-5 in the North Division. The Lady Bulldogs and the Lady Warriors did not play during the regular season.

Semi-finals are scheduled at 1 and 6 p.m. Wednesday.

The championship game is set for 6 p.m. Thursday.

The East Central men quailed for the single elimination event as the south's number four seed with an 8-6 division mark and an overall 13-11 record under second-year head coach Robert Thompson.

The Warriors were scheduled to begin first-round action by taking on north division number one seed Holmes Community College at 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.

The Bulldogs finished 18-5 overall and 11-1 in the north division. ECCC and Holmes did not face each other during the regular season.

Semi-finals are scheduled at 2:45 and 7:45 p.m. Wednesday.

The championship game is set for 7:45 p.m. Thursday.

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WEEK OF Feb. 22, 2015

EC sophomore

EC Sophomore Lady Warriors Honored

These members of the 2014-15 East Central Community College women's basketball team were honored during "Sophomore Appreciation Night" held Monday, Feb. 16 in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus. Picture are (kneeling, from left) Tynika Bender of Newton, Breona Foster of Neshoba Central, Shakerya Morrison, a product of East Wake High School in Wendell, N.C.; Jaleshia Jones of Wayne County and Tashi-Ana Thompson, a product of Miller Grove High School in Lithonia, Ga.; and (standing, from left) assistant coach Kiara Ruffin, student assistants Warner Parkes of Nanih Waiya, Teelisa Kennedy of Scott Central, Keona Foster of Neshoba Central, Tamia Cavett of Jackson Murrah and Haley Watkins of Scott Central; and head coach Crandal Porter. They are shown during the special ceremony held prior to the home finale with Pearl River Community College. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF Feb. 22, 2015

ECCC squads prepare for tourney

From school reports

DECATUR — East Central Community College basketball squads have qualified to compete in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament next Wednesday through Saturday at Mississippi College in Clinton.

The East Central men quailed for the single elimination event as the No. 7 seed and begin first-round action by taking on No. 2 seed Jones County Junior College at 2 p.m.

ugh light to play more than 12
es before the second round was
pended by darkness.
Brendan Steele birdied all four
s he played and was at 8
er.
The Honda Classic is consid-
l the start of the buildup to the
sters, and McIlroy is getting
e attention than anyone over
last two decades except for
r Woods. McIlroy is No. 1 in
world. He already has won this
: And a green jacket is all
s missing for him to become
sixth player with the career
nd Slam.

ECCC from page B1

the Mississippi No. 3 seed and begin first-round action by taking on five seed Itawamba Community College at Noon Thursday, March 5.

The East Central women hold a 20-5 record under third-year head coach Crandal Porter after falling to Meridian Community College 79-77 in the semi-finals of the MACJC State Tourney.

Itawamba (20-4) was defeated by Meridian 76-74 in the opening round of the state tournament.

Other matchups in first-round women's action Thursday include Co-Lin and Holmes at 2 p.m., Meridian and Northwest at 6 p.m. and Baton Rouge (La.) and Jones at 8 p.m.

The East Central/Itawamba winner plays the Co-Lin/Holmes winner at 6 p.m. on Friday. The winner of the Meridian/Northwest match-up will face the Baton Rouge/Jones winner at 8 p.m.

The championship game is set for 6 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

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WEEK OF Feb. 22, 2015

East Central swept by Southwest Mississippi

From school reports

East Central Community College's basketball squads dropped a pair of close decisions to Southwest Mississippi Community College Thursday night in during the season finale in Summit.

The Lady Warriors were clipped 78-76 by the host Lady Bears, and the Warriors fell 75-74 to the Southwest men.

Tashi-Ana Thomspon poured in 26 points to lead the playoff-bound EC women, who dropped to 19-4 overall and 10-4 in the MACJC South Division. Thompson.

Also scoring were Jalesia Jones with 14 points; Shakerya Morrison with 13; Kalybriah Haskin with 12; Johnta' Hughes, Tynika Bender and Breona Foster with three each and Breaushza Ragsdale with two.

Gabriella Cortez pumped in 20 points for Southwest, which improved to 11-12 overall and 6-8 in the south division.

ECCC led 35-34 at the break.

In the men's contest, the Warriors held a 29-28 halftime advantage but the visiting Wolves outscored EC by a 47-45 margin in the second half to claim the one-point victory.

Quinton Campbell, a product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala., scored 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead the Warriors, who dropped to 13-11, 8-6.

Also scoring were Ravion Henry of Leake Central, 19; Prince McDaniel of Pascagoula, 14; Randy Phillips of Jackson Lanier, eight; Derrick Dandridge of White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn., six; and Demarkus Jones of Terry and Ramone Tate of St. Stanislaus, two each.

Lafayette Rutledge led Southwest with 18 points. The Wolves improved to 9-13 and 6-8.

East Central Community College basketball squads have advanced to the MACJC State Tournament scheduled Monday through Thursday, Feb. 23-26 and hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

The Lady Warriors begin first-round action by taking on north division number three seed Holmes Community College at 2:45 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23 on the Wesson campus.

The Warriors begin first-round action by taking on North Division number one seed Holmes Community College at 2:45 p.m. Tuesday.

MORE INFORMATION

East Central's Tashi-Ana Thompson led in scoring with 26 points.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

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MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

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WEEK OF Feb. 19, 2015

THE MERIDIAN STAR
Thursday, February 19, 2015

Sophomore night at ECCC

Special to The Star

East Central Community College head men's basketball coach Robert Thompson (far left) honored sophomore members of his 2014-15 squad during "Sophomore Appreciation Night" held Monday, Feb. 16 in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus. Pictured are (from left) Thompson, student assistant Racine Talla, a product of Oak Dale Christian Academy in Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Monte Bowie of Morton, Kristian Clark of St. Martin, Quinton Campbell, a product Mary G. Montgomery in Mobile, Ala.; Ramone Tate of St. Stanislaus, Demond Morgan of Morton, Keon McKinney of West Point and DeMarcus Jones of Jackson Terry. The honorees are shown during the special ceremony held between games of the home finale with Pearl River Community College. Not pictured is assistant coach D

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Feb. 11, 2015

ECCC squads hand Hinds defeats

East Central Community College basketball squads added one to the win column following a sweep of Hinds Community College Thursday, Feb. 12, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

The Lady Warriors improved to 18-3 overall and 9-3 in south division competition with a 95-42 thumping of the visiting Lady Bulldogs.

Samantha Duncan, a freshman guard and product of Oak Grove High School, scored 20 points to lead the Lady Warriors.

Quinton Campbell, a guard/forward from Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala., had 19 points to lead the Warriors in scoring.

Other scorers were Tashi-Ana Thompson, a product of Miller Grove High SChool in Lithonia, Ga., 15; Tynika Bener of Newton, nine; Kalybriah Haskin of Olympian High School in Chula Vista, Calif., eight; Joh- Hughes of Hattiesburg and Alexia McDonald of Petal, seven each ; Richenda Crutcher of H.W. Byers and Jalesia Jones of Wayne County, six each; Rolonda Washington of Raymond and Breona Foster of Neshoba Central, five each; Courtney Harper of Laurel, Jelisa Pearson of Quitman and Shakerya Morrison of East Wake High School in Wendell, N.C., two each; and Breaushza

Alisha Guynes had 13 points to lead the Hinds women, who fell to 2-19.

EC held a 53-24 advantage at the break.

Prince McDaniel pumped in 25 points to lead the ECCC men, who improved to 12-9 overall and 7-5 in the south division. McDaniel is a product of Pascagoula High School.

Also scoring were Isaiah Traylor of Tupelo, 11; Quinton Campbell, a product of Mary G. Mont-

Volume 145, Number 50

in Thursday tilt

gomery High School in Mobile, Ala., and Demarkus Jones of Jackson Terry, nine each; Ravion Henry of Leake Central, eight; Irishma Bowie of Morton, five; Kristian Clark of St. Martin, four; Derrick Dandridge of White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn., three; and Demond Morgan of Morton and Randy Phillips of Jackson Lanier, two each.

Clayton Tate scored 14 points to lead the Hinds men, who droppe

East Central was scheduled to host Pearl River Community College Monday, Feb. 16 in south division match-ups.

The Lady Warriors and Warriors complete regular season action Thursday, Feb. 19 by traveling to Southwest Mississippi Community College in games beginning at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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PS 1

Week of Feb. 15, 2015

SUPER SOPHOMORES

Jones, sophomores lift East Central to win over Pearl River CC

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

Appeared in:

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star ✓

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

Week of Feb. 15, 2015

pg. 2

East Central Community College's Jalesia Jones goes for a loose ball against Pearl River Community College Monday night in Decatur. Inset below, East Central Community College's Shakerya Morrison gets fouled by a Pearl River Community College defender as she goes in for a shot Monday night in Decatur.

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — East Central Community College seemed to be in complete control leading 60-34 with 13:23 remaining.

But Pearl River Community College wouldn't go away quietly. The Lady Wildcats went on a 17-2 spurt over the next six minutes to pull to 11.

However, ECCC's sophomore sensation Jalesia Jones scored the next four points, including a 3-pointer from the top of the key, to help the Lady Warriors pull away and preserve an 80-69 win on sophomore night.

"I had to go all out for my team," Jones said. "I'm a leader on the floor and off the floor, so I had to carry out my duties (Monday)."

The Lady Warriors dominated the action early on.

ECCC (19-3, 10-3) pulled down 31 first half rebounds, including 17 offensively, and forced PRCC into 17 turnovers, and led at the half 44-27.

"Execution at the highest level, and we played as hard as we could possibly play,"

East Central Community College coach Crandal Porter said. "We took good shots, and had a good shooting day. I just feel we played as well as we could play in the first half."

Jones finished with a game-high 24 points, while Johnta' Hughes poured in 14 points, including four 3-point field goals.

"I don't like when people talk to me on the floor," Jones said. "I just want to play. When they began to talk to me, the wheels start turning, and it made me just want to go harder.

"I don't talk back."

Instead, Jones let her play do the talking for her as she pulled down 13 rebounds, including five on the offensive end, in addition to two 3-point makes.

The forward is one five sophomores that were honored for their achievements at ECC. Jones, alongside Tynika Bender, Breona Foster, Shakerya Morrison and Tashi-Ana Thompson played their last home game in an ECCC uniform.

"I tried something new this year," Porter said. "I wrote them a letter and told them what they meant. I tried to go in there (the locker room) and tell them, but I couldn't make it through it. I get

See WIN on page B2

Appeared in:

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star ✓

Neshoba Democrat _____

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Scott County Times _____

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Other Publications _____

p5.3

WEEK OF Feb. 15, 2015

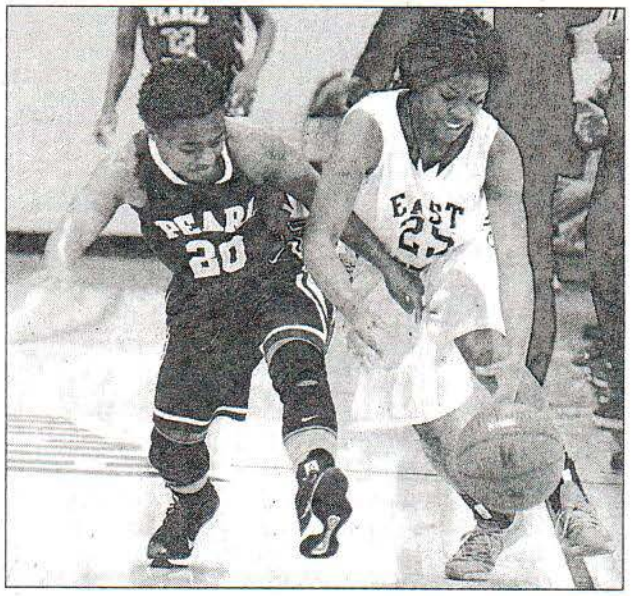
WIN from page B1

really emotional. This program, East Central and myself are always going to be in debt for what they've accomplished, and their contributions to this program goes way past wins and losses."

Bender finished with 10 points and seven assists. Morrison had seven points and 13 rebounds, while Thompson recorded nine points. Foster chipped in with a one rebound, one assist, and a steal.

ECCC will wrap up its regular season schedule at Southwest Mississippi Community College Thursday before taking part in the MACJC tournament Feb. 23.

"We're not thinking about the tournament," Porter said. "Our thing is, the next game is the most important game. This game (against Southwest) could be seen as meaningless to some. But we don't play meaningless games. We're going to play the game and not the situation."



Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Breona Foster makes the steal against Pear River Community College's Akayla Powell Monday night in Decatur.

WARRIORS WIN LATE

In a back-and-forth contest, East Central Community College had the final say.

With the game tied 70-70 and approximately 12.9 seconds remaining, Quinton Campbell connected on a 3-pointer, and ECCC managed to hang on for a 73-70 win over Pearl River Community College in an electrifying environment in MACJC action Monday night.

After leading for the entire first half and controlling a 40-36 advantage at the half, ECCC and PRCC swapped leads on multiple occasions in the second before the Warriors were able to pull away at the end.

Campbell finished the game with 22 points and seven rebounds, while Prince McDaniel chipped in with 18 points and nine rebounds. Isaiah Traylor chipped in with 12 points, and Ramon Tate tallied four assists.

East Central connected on nine 3-pointers, while Pearl River hit six.

The Warriors will be back in action Thursday at Southwest Mississippi Community College before taking part in the MACJC tournament set to begin Feb. 23 at Copaih-Lincoln Community College.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

East Central CC men, women

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — East Central Community College coach Robert Thompson calls Prince McDaniel his team's best player.

On Thursday night, the freshman guard proved why.

McDaniel scored a team-high 25 points, including five 3-pointers, and threw down a monstrous one-handed dunk to help lift the Warriors past Hinds Community College 78-59 in MACJC South Division action.

"He played very well," Thompson said of McDaniel. "He knocked down his 3-point attempts, was very aggressive, and he's got a lot of potential; he only played one year in high school. He keeps improving every day, and I'm really excited about the potential he can bring to our team."

With the win, ECCC (12-9, 7-5) clinches a top-4 spot in the division, a position it needed in order to reach the state tournament set to begin Feb. 23.

"I thought we played well overall," Thompson said. "We came in knowing we needed to win to give ourselves a chance to get to the (tournament), and we've been playing well at home — only one loss all year."

After a sluggish start, East Central found itself trailing 14-13.

However, McDaniel ignited his team and fans with his thunderous dunk and a pair of 3-pointers during a rally that eventually put the Warriors ahead 27-20.

"I felt good, and all my shots were going in," said McDaniel, who also pulled down a team-high seven rebounds. "That was my first dunk at home, so I had to get it turned up. But we have to keep our focus and continue to box out defensively."

On multiple occasions in the second half, the Bulldogs managed to trim the deficit to 12 points, but ECCC prevented them from coming any closer.

"They made a hard run at us, and our guys got a little relaxed," Thompson said. "We called timeout and got our composure. We had a great team effort, and I was real pleased with our play."

Isaiah Traylor chipped in with 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

East Central can bolster its position in the state tournament when it takes on South Division leader Pearl River Community College Monday.

"We're going to have to box out; they've got some rebounders," McDaniel said. "We have to beat (Pearl

See EAST CENTRAL on page B3

MORE INFORMATION

Prince McDaniel scored a team-high 25 points, including five treys, and hauled in seven rebounds.

op Hinds CC

EAST CENTRAL from page B1

River). They're No. 1 in the division."

EAST CENTRAL RUNS AWAY

Ten separate East Central Community College players scored five or more points as ECCC pounded Hinds Community College 95-42 in women's action.

The Lady Warriors (18-3, 9-3) left no doubt in the result of the contest as they controlled the action from start to finish.

"We had a lot better execution and a lot better focus (Thursday)," East Central coach Crandal Porter said. "We came in with a lot more focus, and I'm really proud of the girls for that. We executed really well, and Hinds has been playing teams really well."

Samantha Duncan led East Central with a game-high 20 points.

"It's getting crunch time," Duncan said. "I was in the gym working all week, and I guess it paid off. Coach (Porter) told us to play at a high level at all times, and that's what we did. But we have to continue to work hard and talk more on defense."

Off the bench, Tashi-Ana Thompson connected on four 3-point attempts in the first half, including one at the buzzer that gave her squad a commanding 53-24 lead at the half. Thompson finished the game with 15 points, six rebounds and six assists.

"We don't fuss over who starts," Porter said. "When you play, make the best of it, and (Thompson does). She's a heck of a player, and she has a really high I.Q." I.Q.

The Lady Warriors connected on 12 of their 22 3-point attempts, and held a 32-11 lead midway through the first half following a 15-4 run.

"I think we came out tonight focused and rotated well on defense," Porter said. "We executed well on offense and made shots."

ECCC kept its momentum going strong in the second half as it began the half on a 19-3 spurt to push its advantage to 72-27.

"We don't like to play to the opponent or to the score," Porter said. "I thought the second half we executed really well, and we didn't worry about what the score was. We did what we were supposed to do, and that's what you have to do."

ECCC will host Pearl River Community College Monday for sophomore night.

"I want to honor these kids, because the five sophomores that we have, two of them were here through the rough times," Porter said. Now we have better times, and I just appreciate what they've done for the program. I want to honor them."

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WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

ECCC squads wave off Gulf Coast

East Central Community College basketball teams continued their winning ways with victories over MACJC South Division foe Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Thursday, Feb. 5, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

In the women's contest, East Central defeated the Lady Bulldogs 86-64 to improve their record to 17-2 overall and 8-2 in division play.

Jaleshia Jones, a sophomore guar/forward and product of Wayne County High School, pumped in 19 points to lead the Lady Warriors.

Also scoring in double figures were Tashi-Ana Thompson, 16; Shakerya Morrison, 12; and Samantha Duncan, 10. Thompson is a sophomore guard and product of Miller Grove High School in Lithonia, Ga. Morrison is a sophomore forward/center from East Wake High School in Wendell, N.C. and Duncan is a freshman guard and product of Oak Grove High School.

Other scorers were Breona Foster of Neshoba Central, nine; Johnta Hughes of Hattiesburg, five; Tynika Bender of Newton, four; Rolonda Washington of Raymond, three; and Richenda Crutcher of H.W. Byers, Alexia McDonald of Petal, Courtney Harper of Laurel and Breaushza Ragsdale of Morton, two each.

Markeisha Watson and Cilinda Brown had 15 points each to lead the Gulf Coast women, who fell to 6-11, 1-5.

EC held a 44-31 advantage at the break.

In men's action, the Warriors won 90-77 and improved to 11-8 overall and 6-4 in the south division.

Isaiah Traylor, a freshman guard from Tupelo, was the leading scorer for the East Central with 23 points.

Additional Warriors

for division wins

scoring in double figures were Quinton Campbell, 19; Ravion Henry, 15; and Derrick Dandridge, 14. Campbell is a sophomore guard/forward and product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala. Henry, a freshman guard, is a product of Leake Central, and Dandridge is a freshman forward from White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn. Campbell also led in rebounds with 19.

Other scorers included Kristian Clark of St. Martin High School, nine; Randy Phillips of Jackson Lanier, four; Ramone Tate of St. Stanislaus, three; Keon McKinney of West Point, two; and Demarkus Jones of Terry, one.

The Lady Warriors and Warriors host Hinds Community College Thursday, Feb. 12 in games beginning at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓✓

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WEEK OF Feb. 5, 2015

Davis to play two sports at ECCC

By Drew Kerekes
dkerekes@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — Tonya Davis won't have to go too far from home to watch her daughter continue her softball and basketball careers.

The mother of Newton County High School senior second baseman and post player Latesia Davis watched with pride as her daughter signed to play both sports at East Central Community College Wednesday morning.

"It's good for us," Tonya Davis said. "We can get out there to the games, because it's only five minutes away from our home."

Latesia Davis, who is currently finishing out her senior season in basketball before turning her focus to fast-pitch softball this spring, said the convenience of a short distance from home was a major plus in earning a scholarship with ECCC.

"It's very important," Latesia said.

Special to The Star

Latesia Davis, center front, signs Wednesday morning to play softball and basketball at East Central Community College. The Newton County High School senior is joined by her parents, front row, from left, Orberie and Tonya Davis; and Newton County softball coach Justin Chaney.

Her softball coach, Justin Chaney, said ECCC would be getting a "phenomenal athlete" in the fall.

"You can tell on the basketball court and softball field (how good she is)," Chaney said. "To be able to start here for five straight years, that's a credit to her."

Wednesday wasn't a total surprise for Tonya Davis, who said she could tell early on the potential was there for Latesia to play beyond high school.

"We started her out early in softball and basketball — she played little league in both sports," Tonya Davis explained. "We just kept pushing her and pushing her, and I could see that she could possibly go somewhere in the future."

ECCC will provide the opportunity to work with a good coaching staff and surround herself with people she's never met, Latesia Davis said.

"I like the coach there, and I get to meet new friends," Latesia Davis said.

Chaney said though he won't be coaching her any

See DAVIS on page B2

DAVIS from page B1

longer after high school, he still plans to watch Latesia Davis whenever he can make it to ECCC on game days or nights.

"I told her not only would I come watch her play softball, but I'd also come watch her play basketball," Chaney said. "I do that here. I go support (my players) here, because they're like my young 'uns."

Tonya Davis said she's grateful for Chaney and Newton County girls basketball coach Cory Cleveland for helping develop her daughter into a good player in both sports.

"Coach Chaney pushed and pushed and worked hard with the girls, and Coach Cleveland helps motivate her in basketball and works hard with her," Tonya Davis said. "They're both great coaches."

Since he still has her for one more semester, Chaney said he's eager to get Latesia Davis out to practice after basketball concludes.

"It's already evident in practice that we miss her," Chaney said. "Once she gets back there, she solidifies the right side of our infield and bats at the top of the order. I call her our mojo — we go as she goes. She sets the tone for us.

"I told her I wish her well in basketball, but hurry up and get down there."

Latesia Davis has been a five-year starter in slow- and fast-pitch softball. In the 2014 fast-pitch season, she batted .423 with 41 runs scored and 25 runs batted in. She also had a .555 on-base average.

In fast-pitch, she was awarded the 2014 golden glove infield award and made the 4A All-State team that year. She was given the hustle award in 2013. In slow-pitch, she was given the golden glove infield award in 2014 and was named to the All-State team in Class 4A, as well as the Mississippi Association of Coaches All-Star team for Classes 4-6A.

Latesia Davis is also the daughter of Orberie Davis.

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WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

ECCC sweeps MCC in region play

DECATUR – Success continues for East Central Community College basketball squads following MACJC South Division victories over Meridian Community College last Thursday in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

Prince McDaniel, a freshman guard, sank a 2-point basket with 3.5 seconds left on the clock to secure the victory for the ECCC men's team. With the win, the Warriors are now 9-8 overall and 4-4 in division play. In another close game, the Lady Warriors held on for a 90-87 decision over the Lady Eagles after being knotted 49-49 at the half. East Central improved to 15-2 overall and 6-2 in league competition.

Quinton Campbell had 19 points to lead the Warriors in scoring.

Other scorers were McDaniel, 12; Randy Phillips and Ravion Henry, nine each; Isaiah Traylor, eight; Derrick Dandridge, six; and Kristian Clark of St. Martin, Ramone Tate and Irishma Bowie, five each.

Frankie Collins and Devontae Brewser had 14 points each to lead the MCC men, who fell to 7-9.

EC held a 40-38 advantage at the break.

Jaleshia Jones and Shakerya Morrison each had 20 points to lead the Lady Warriors.

Tytiana Hall pumped in 34 points to lead the MCC women, who dropped to 12-6.

East Central travels to division foe Jones County Junior College Monday. The Lady Warriors and Warriors host Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Thursday, Feb. 5 in games beginning at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

Tryouts slated for ECCC men's soccer team for '15

Tryouts for the 2015 East Central Community College men's soccer team will be held Thursday, Feb. 19 on the Decatur campus, announced head coach Kenneth Thompson.

Activities are scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. Registration will be held at the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Players will have to sign a waiver of liability to participate and will need to provide their own equipment including cleats and shin guards.

All prospective players are encouraged to complete a player questionnaire ahead of time by visiting the Warrior Soccer web page at www.eccc.edu.

For more information, contact Coach Kenneth Thompson at ECCC, 601-635-6370 (office) or 601-938-3271 (cell). His e-mail address is kthompson@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

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sippi's returning players are all-

east Lauderdale product hit .250,

Stadium in Millington, Tenn.

ECCC from page B1

31.

However, MGCCC would force its way back into the game, and managed to cut the deficit to single digits for most of the second half.

"I think we got a little content in the second half," East Central coach Robert Thompson said. "Give (Mississippi) Gulf Coast a lot of credit; they fought hard and did a good job of crashing the boards to get themselves back into the game."

But that's as close as they would come down the stretch, as ECCC kept its nerve and managed to pull out the win.

"I was real proud of our composure at the end of the game," Thompson said. "We were able to get some big buckets, and were able to stretch the game back out. Guys made free throws and big plays. I'm very proud of our guys with their play down the stretch."

Isaiah Traylor led the Warriors (11-8, 6-4) with 23 points, including four 3-point makes, while Quinton Campbell poured in 19 points and pulled down 19 rebounds.

"That's my role on the team," Traylor said. "Coach (Thompson) told me shoot, and I did what I have to do."

Perhaps Traylor's biggest shots came midway in the second half with his team lead 52-46. The freshman connected on consecutive 3-point makes to put his squad back ahead by double-figures.

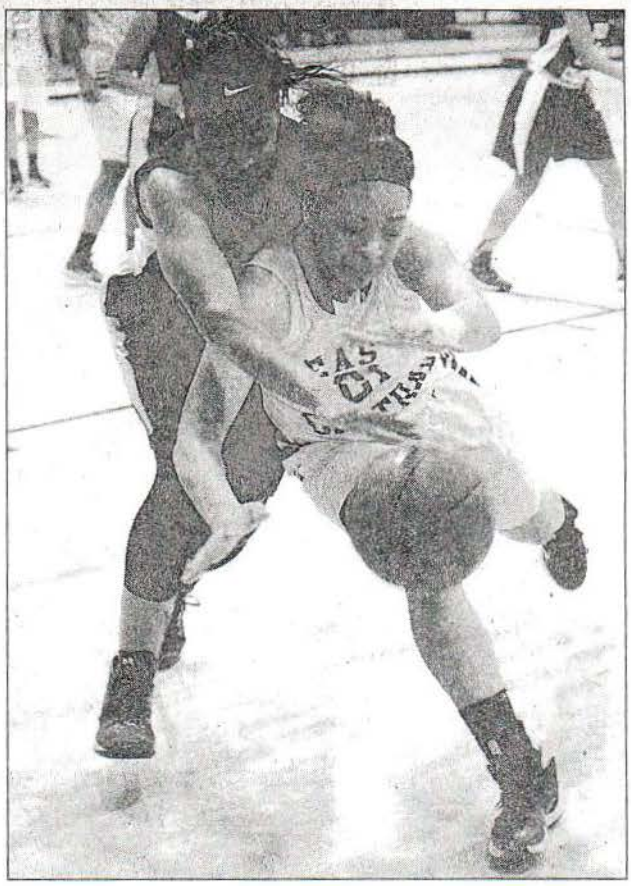
"We shouldn't have let them get back in the game," Traylor said. "We got comfortable. The shots were big, and I just had to hit them.

"At the end of practice every day, we say demolish. We have to demolish our opponents every time out."

Ravion Henry tallied 15 points and Derrick Dandridge scored 14 and pulled down 14 rebounds.

Both ECCC squads will return to action Monday at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. The women will play at 6:00 p.m., while the men are slated for an 8 p.m. start.

"We want to keep getting better and keep being one as a unit," Thompson said. "We had some terrific play from the guys off the bench (Thursday). We just have to continue to defend our home floor and try to steal one on the road. (Copiah-Lincoln) is a tough place to play, but that's a big game for us to try and build some momentum down the stretch."



Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Jalesia Jones and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Markeisha Watson battle for an outgoing ball Thursday night in Decatur.

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

CLARION-LEDGER

Week of Feb. 1, 2015

pg 2

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — East Central Community College's suffocating defense forced Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College into 30 turnovers, including 18 in the first half, and the Lady Warriors rolled past the Lady Bulldogs 86-64.

"That's our game," East Central coach Crandal Porter said. "We try to force teams to turn it over, and, fortunately, we had a good night. (MGCCC) is not where their coach is going to eventually get them, but we had a lot to do with (their turnovers)."

Conversely, the Lady Warriors (17-2, 8-2) turned the ball over just eight times and shot a healthy 47.6-percent from the field. However, Porter said his squad must do a better job of identifying what defense the opposition is in.

"Execution wise, I wasn't real happy," Porter said. "We made a lot of hustle plays, because we do play hard, but what's going to happen when we play a team that plays hard and executes? Our stuff against the zone and our secondary break weren't there. When they changed defenses that gave us problems.

> "Execution-wise, I wasn't real happy."
> — ECCC women's coach Crandal Porter

"We have point guards that are coaches on the court, and they need handle that."

Twelve separate East Central players scored in the game, led by Jalesia Jones' 19 points. Tashi-Ana Thompson scored 16, while Samantha Duncan added 10 points.

Meanwhile, Shakerya Morrison scored 12 points, and registered team-high's in rebounds and steals with seven each.

"We made our right rotations," Morrison said. "We executed on our 2-2-1 (trapping defense), so I was able to get into the passing lane and deflect some passes."

Despite her double-figures effort, Morrison said she felt she left points on the court.

"I could have done better," she said. "I could have made some layups and some more free throws.

"We need to continue to execute, and we have to do that to be able to beat (Copiah-Lincoln Community College Monday).

With just four games remaining before the MACJC tournament is set to tip-off Feb. 23, Porter said his squad must demonstrate better execution as the season winds down.

"We need to make sure we get to where we should be by the time the tournament gets here," Porter said. "Everyone in the tournament is going to be good. You're going to play hard, and they are going to play hard. They're going to execute and have talent, so lack of execution can beat you."

WARRIORS HANG ON

With East Central Community College possessing a 78-71 lead with approximately 2:44 remaining, the Warriors scored the next 10 points to help seal a 90-77 win over Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Thursday.

The Warriors seemed to be in complete control at the half leading the Bulldogs 47-

See ECCC on page B2

Appeared in:

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pg1 Feb. 1, 2015

LADY WARRIORS PLUDER

ECCC women force 30 turnovers in win vs. Miss. Gulf Coast

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College defenders cut off the lane against East Central Community College's Richenda Crutcher Thursday night in Decatur.

WEEK OF JAN. 29, 2015

East Central cruises past Southwest Miss. CC

From school reports

DECATUR — It was a clean sweep for East Central Community College basketball squads as they posted MACJC South Division victories over Southwest Mississippi Community College Monday in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus.

The Lady Warriors cruised 95-70 and improved to 14-2 overall and 5-2 in division play under third-year head coach Crandal Porter.

Tashi-Ana Thompson led EC with 19 points. Thompson is a sophomore guard and product of Miller Grove High School in Lithonia, Ga.

Also scoring in double figures were Samantha Duncan, 18, Jaleshia Jones, 17, Shakerya Morrison, 12 and Alexia McDonald, 11. Morrison was also credited with 15 rebounds.

Other scorers were Kalybriah Haskin, eight; Johnta Hughes, four; and Richenda Crutcher, Tynika Bender and Breaushza Ragsdale, two each.

Talisa Sherman had 21 points to lead the Lady Bears, who fell to 7-9 and 3-4.

EC led 38-35 at halftime.

In the men's contest, EC held on for a 73-63 decision to improve to 8-8 overall and 3-4 in league competition under second-year head coach Robert Thompson.

Prince McDaniel led the Warriors with 20 points. McDaniel is a freshman guard and product of Pascagoula High School.

Other scorers in double figures were Quinton Campbell, 19, and Isaiah Traylor, 12. Campbell led in rebounds with 18.

Additional scorers included Derrick Dandridge, eight; Demarkus Jones, four; Ravion Henry and Randy Phillips, three each; and Demond Morgan and Kristian Clark, two each.

Lafayette Rutledge and Jaylen Moore pumped in 20 points each to lead the Bears, who dropped to 6-9 and 3-4.

EC held a 38-32 advantage at the break.

The Lady Warriors and Warriors host longtime rival Meridian Community College today, with game times are slated for 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. on the Decatur campus.

MORE INFORMATION

Shakerya Morrison scored 12 points and pulled down a team-high 15 rebounds for the Lady Warriors.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

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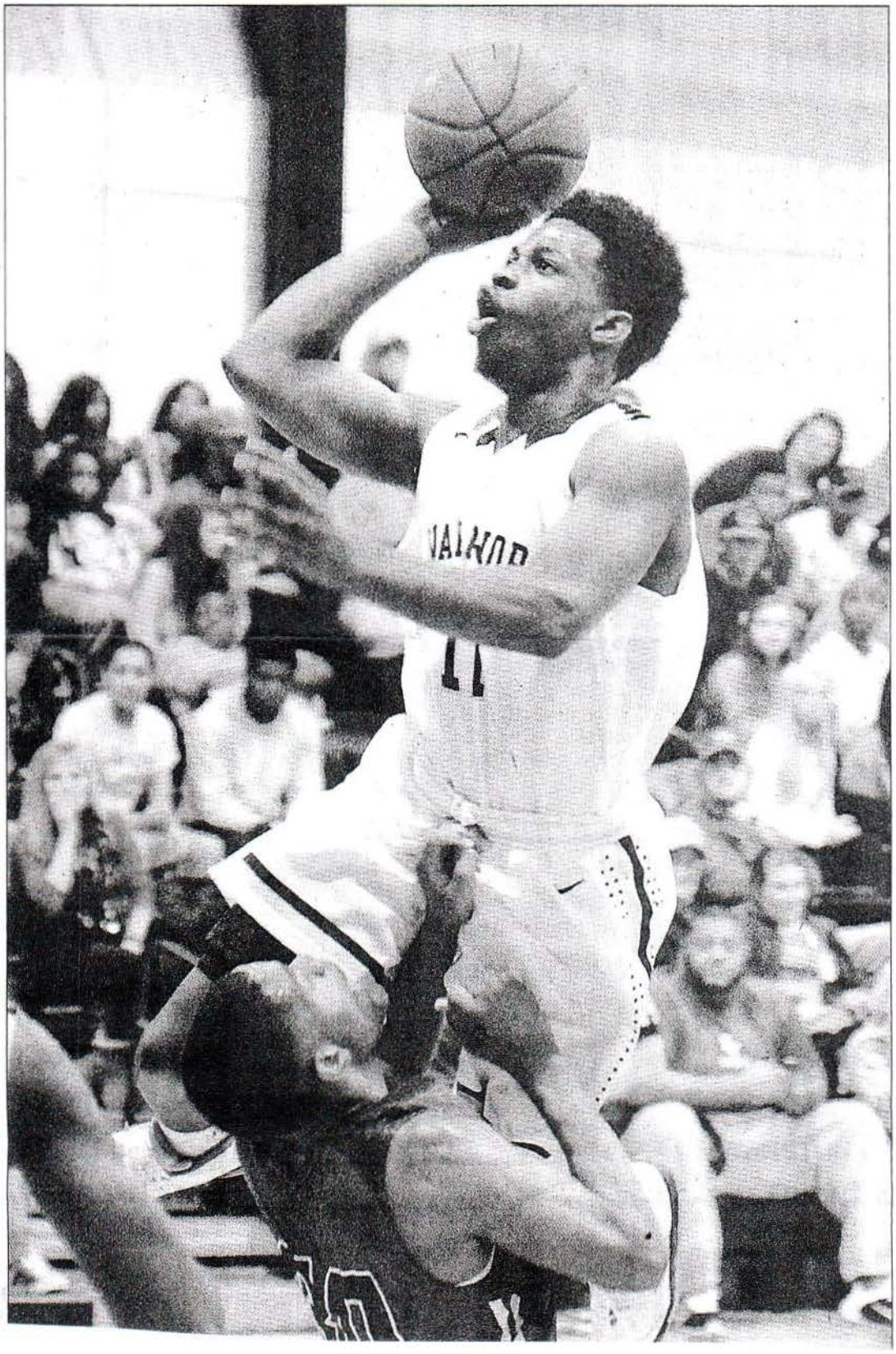
WEEK OF Jan. 25, 2015

BEGINNING TO END

East Central men never trail in win against Co-Lin



By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — East Central Community College led from start to finish.

After jumping out to a 17-6 advantage six minutes into the contest, the Warriors grinded their way to a key 78-63 win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College Thursday night in MACJC action.

"I felt our guys played hard (Thursday)," ECCC coach Robert Thompson said. "(Co-Lin) did a good job of making us scrap to get the win. I think our guys got back their composure in the second half, and we started doing the things we were doing early in the game that were successful."

The Warriors (7-6, 2-2) were led offensively by Ravion Henry, who tallied a game-high 24 points.

"We played hard and played together," Henry said. "They made a run, but we made our shots to get the win. We're a very confident team. We know we're a good team, and we can beat anybody if we play our game.

The Wolfpack (2-11, 0-4) managed to cut the deficit to six with 1:53 remaining, but ECCC was able to stave off any late rally thanks to clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch.

"We need to make those free throws," Thompson said of his squad, which was 10 of 10 at the line in the final two minutes. "We've been shooting it well all year. We did a good job of playing smart basketball. I was real pleased with us playing inside-out."

PS. 2

Week of Jan. 25, 2015

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Demarkus Jones collides with a Copiah-Lincoln Community College defender and is called for the charge Thursday night in Decatur.

Additionally, Thompson said it's imperative for his squad to win its home games in the highly South Division of MACJC conference.

"Our side is very tough," Thompson said. "You have to defend your home floor. It's that old formula: Win your home

See EAST on page B2

EAST from page B1

games and split on the road, and right now we're doing that. We just have to maintain what we're doing."

For the Warriors, Kristian Clark scored 12 points and Isaiah Traylor chipped in with 11.

For Co-Lin, Terry Morris notched a team-high 16 points.

ECCC travels to Hinds Community College Tuesday.

"We have to continue to crash the boards and play defense," Henry said. "We need to continue to do the little bitty stuff. We took a lot of charges defensively (Thursday); we're going to make sure we take charges.

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Ramone Tate gets squeezed as he tries to split a pair of Copiah-Lincoln defenders in the lane Thursday night in Decatur.

LADY WOLFPACK TOP ECCC

A 12-0 spurt midway through the first half by Copiah Lincoln Community College proved to be the difference as the Lady Wolfpack recorded a pivotal 81-71 road win over East Central Community College.

After leading 11-10, early in the first half, a flurry of baskets from Co-Lin (13-0, 4-0) put it on top 22-11 and never looked back.

"I'm going to take the blame for this game," East Central Community College coach Crandal Porter said. "(Co-Lin) is more mentally prepared to play in a game of that magnitude than we were. I think we came into the game thinking it was just another game, when it wasn't.

"They are a really good team, they're tough and well coached. They can shoot it, and they can drive it. They're undefeated for a reason. We have to bring more fight into a game like this."

East Central (10-2, 2-2) trailed at the half by six, and managed to trim the deficit to five on multiple occasions in the second half, but that's as close as it would come.

For the game, Co-Lin out-rebounded ECCC by 10 and recorded 11 blocked shots to four.

"Defending the paint is all about toughness," Porter said. "Rebounding is all about want-to. Getting in position to take charges, although I think we did a good of taking charges. But we have a lot more to give than what we left out on the floor."

For Co-Lin, Claresa Banks scored a team-high points 18, while Alexis Collins recorded 17 points, and Arnissayur Robinson had 13 points. Meanwhile, for the Lady Warriors, Jalesia Jones registered a game-high 21 points and Shakerya Morrison had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

East Central will travel to Hinds CC Tuesday for another South Division showdown.

"I think if you go in our locker room, the message is clear," Porter said. "Co-Lin is the standard of this league. We have to work harder to get there; we're not there yet. As a coach, I'm going to dig deeper and be ready to go, and I think our girls will respond."

WEEK OF Jan. 25, 2015

CROWNED PRINCE

McDaniel scores key basket as ECCC edges MCC men

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — East Central Community College's Prince McDaniel dribbled at the top of the key of a 76-76 as time dwindled down.

The freshman guard made his move with six seconds left, crossed to his right, pulled up and knocked down a 17-foot jump shot with 3.2 seconds.

The Warriors then came up with a defensive stand and escaped with a 78-76 win over South Division foe Meridian Community College in MACJC action Thursday night.

"This was a great ball game," East Central coach Robert Thompson said. "I'm proud of my guys. We played with poise, and we made the plays when we needed to make them."

Thompson said there was no hesitation in putting the ball in McDaniel's hands on the final possession.

"We're going to put the ball in our best player's hands," he said. "We isolated him, and he made a big play."

McDaniel finished the game with 12 points, while Quinton Campbell led the Warriors (9-8, 4-4) with 19 points.

"This is a good feeling. I feel excellent, really," McDaniel said. "We needed this win because we have the playoffs coming up soon. This is a big win because it's a rivalry game.

"I definitely knew I was going to take a shot because the refs had been making bad calls all night. That was my main cross-over move."

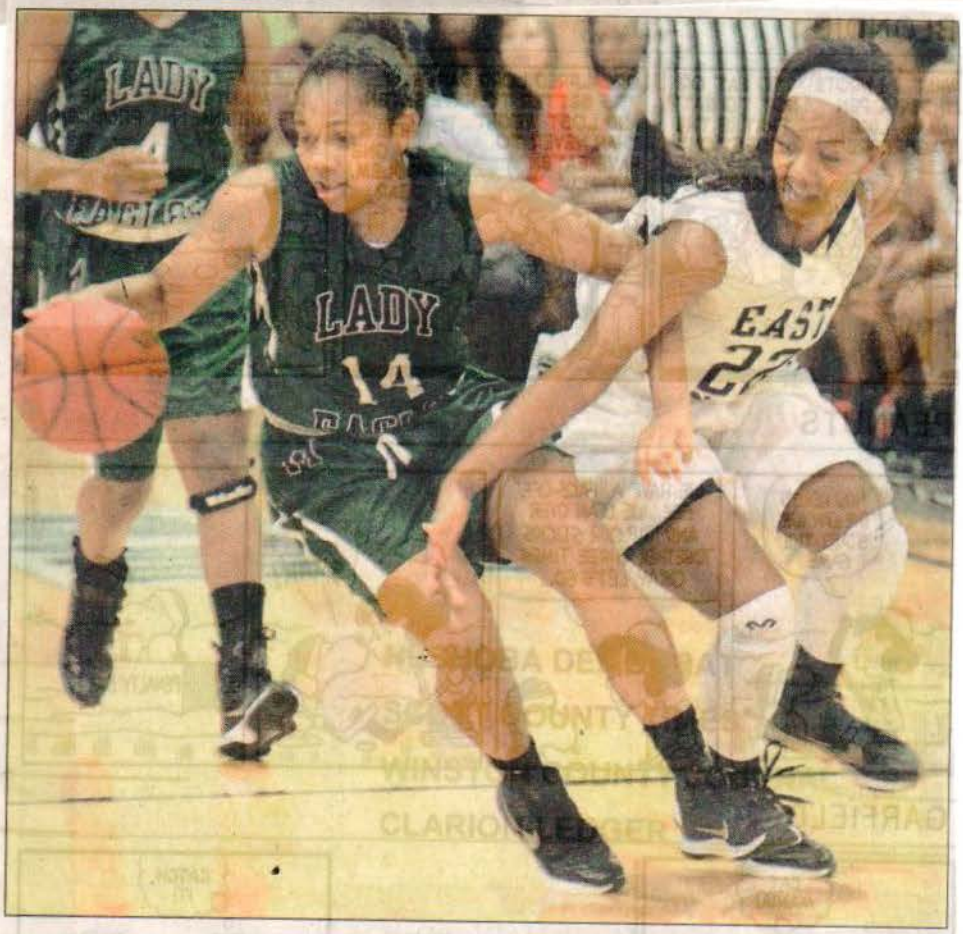
Meridian (6-9, 1-7) started the game out strong, connecting on seven 3-point attempts in the first half.

"I talked to them about making plays and finishing plays," Meridian coach Cedric Drake said. "I told them not one play lost the game, but there were times when we didn't make plays, and they did."

The Eagles ran into trouble after post player Ken'Darrius Hamilton was forced to the bench with two personal fouls. From there, ECCC exploited Meridian's weakness in the middle.

"We didn't execute block-outs on defense, and they would get second chances," Drake said. "We stretch that every day. When you're on defense, we tell all five guys to go to the boards. Get inside your man and block him out. We did it at times, but

See ECCC on page B3



Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

Meridian Community College's LaShonda Cousin tries to get away from East Central Community College's Tashi-Ana Thompson Thursday night.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

Week of Jan. 25, 2015

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ECCC from page B1

we weren't consistent."

Meridian will look to reverse its fortune Monday when it hosts Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

"It's all about us correcting the mistakes that we made (Thursday," Drake said. "We've lost games previously because we didn't give 100-percent effort. We played with energy and effort (Thursday), and we just have to continue to do that."

Meanwhile, ECCC travels to South Division leader Jones County Junior College Monday night.

"We're still trying to get into the state tournament," Thompson said. "Give (JCJC) credit, they are playing a lot of good basketball. If we can go over there and play with poise, then I think we have a chance to win."

For Meridian, Frankie Collins and Devontae Brewser each scored 14 points, while Brandon Daniels tallied 12.

ECCC HANGS ON

Clinging to a one-point advantage with 40-seconds remaining, East Central Community College executed an out of bounds play to perfection as Shakerya Morrison cut back door towards the goal for a layup.

From there, the Lady Warriors connected on five of their final six free throw attempts to escape with a 90-87 win over Meridian Community College.

"Shaekrya is really athletic, and it's a lob play for her," East Central coach Crandal Porter said. "She's an awesome leaper, so we try to get the pass up above everybody and let her go up and get it."

East Central (15-2, 6-2) was led offensively by Jalesia Jones who score a team-high 21 points. Tashi-Ana Thompson came off the bench to register 18 points, in addition to grabbing four rebounds and picking up three steals.

"This was big because it puts us in third place (in the South Division)," Thompson said. "I try to watch the game closely, then get in the game and do things the person in front of me wasn't doing, and I just try to be a leader on the floor. We just have to stick to team work and continue play defense. We need to keep teams off the boards, because that's where sometimes struggle."

Meridian (12-6, 4-3) entered the game without one of its top performers, Londyn Thomas, who was sick. Kristen Dixon-McBeath started in her place and recorded 10 points to go along with 11 rebounds, six assists and four blocked shots.

"The more she works hard in practice, the more opportunity she's going to get to play," Meridian coach Jocelyn McGilberry said. "I wish she would have worked this hard the first half (of the year)."

Meanwhile, Tytianna Hall led all scorers with 34 points in addition to pulling down eight rebounds.

"She's showed up the last three games," McGilberry said. "She played excellent. She knows how to get to the rim and the free throw line."

McGilberry said her team must demonstrate a better effort in defensive transition when her squad faces Mississippi Gulf Coast Monday

"You can't imagine how much we work on it," she said. "We work on it every day in practice. It's about repetition. (Today) we're going to go over the same thing: transition defense."

East Central will seek to keep their momentum going strong when it travels to Jones County Monday.

"They are thinking just like we are: You have to take care of your home court," Porter said. "Any time you can go and steal a road game, you consider yourself lucky. But we've been pretty good on the road. We're undefeated on the road, and we're looking to keep that up."

MORE INFORMATION

MCC entered Thursday's game without one of its top performers, Londyn Thomas, who was sick.

Appeared in:

Carthaginian

Clarion-Ledge

Meridian Star

Neshoba Dem

WEEK OF Jan. 11, 2015

East Mississippi CC splits with Northwest Mississippi CC

From staff reports

DECATUR — Prince McDaniel scored 20 points and Quinton Campbell recorded 19 points as East Central Community hung on to top Southwest Mississippi Community College 73-63 in MACJ action Monday night.

The Warriors led at halftime 38-32.

For ECCC (8-8, 3-4), Isaiah Traylor chipped in with 12 points.

East Central will be back in action Thursday night when it hosts Meridian Community College.

SECOND HALF SURGE

After possessing just a three-point lead at the half, the East Central Community women's basketball team blew past Southwest Miss. Community College in the second half to win 95-70.

Four separate Lady Warriors recorded double-figures in scoring, led by Tashi-Ana Thompson's 19 points. Additionally, Samantha Duncan scored 18 points, Jalesia Jones recorded 17, and Shekerya Morrison and Alexia McDonald chipped in with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

ECCC (14-2, 5-2) will be back in action Thursday at home against Meridian.

EMCC MEN RECORD WIN

SCOOBA — Jahyde Gardiner recorded his seventh double-double of the season as he poured in 19 points and pulled down 14 rebounds in East Mississippi Community College's 77-70 win over Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Chris Rhoney recorded 13 points, Antonio Finley added 12 and Daniel Simmons chipped in with 10 points.

East Mississippi led at the half 40-31.

EMCC (12-4, 5-1) will host Northeast Mississippi Community College Thursday.

EMCC WOMEN FALL

Ki-Ki Patterson scored 21 points and Camry Jones added 13 but it wasn't enough as the EMCC women fell to Northwest 69-60.

NMCC led at the half 41-31.

East Mississippi (7-9, 3-3) will host Northeast Mississippi on Thursday.

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

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WEEK OF Jan. 18 2015

East Central teams split

From school reports

Ravion Henry pumped in 24 points and led East Central Community College's Warriors to a 78-63 victory over visiting Copiah-Lincoln Community College Monday night in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the Decatur campus.

EC improved to 7-6 overall and 2-2 in the South Division.

Henry, a 6-4, freshman guard and product of Leake Central High School, connected on eight of 10 field goals and was perfect on two trey attempts. He made six of eight free throws.

Also scoring in double figures were Kristian Clark, a 6-6 sophomore guard from St. Martin High School, 12; and Isaiah Traylor, a 6-5 freshman guard and product of Tupelo High School, 11.

Other point makers were Ramone Tate of St. Stanislaus, seven; Derrick Dandridge, a product of White Station High School in Memphis, Tenn., six; Irishma Bowie of Morton and Randy Phillips of Jackson Lanier, five each; Quinton Campbell, a product of Mary G. Montgomery High School in Mobile, Ala., 4; and Demarkus Jones of Terry and Rashad Collier of Brandon, two each.

Terry Morris tallied 16 points to lead the Wolves, who fell to 2-11.

EC led 45-35 at the break.

In the women's contest, EC was outscored 81-71 and fell to the undefeated Lady Wolves.

The Lady Warriors are now 11-2

decisions with Co-Lin

overall and 2-2 in division competition.

Jaleshia Jones was the top scorer for EC as the sophomore guard/forward from Wayne County High School poured in 23 points. Johnson connected on six of 14 field goals, made two three-point shots, and was nine of 10 from the charity stripe.

Other scorers were Shakerya Morrison, a product of East Wake High School in Wendell, NC, 13; Kalybriah Haskin of Olympian High School in San Diego, Calif., Tashi-Ana Thompson of Miller Grove High School in Lithonia, GA, and Samantha Duncan of Oak Grove High School, nine each; and Tynika Bender of Newton, eight. Morrison led in rebounds with 17.

Claresa Banks poured in 18 points to lead the Lady Wolves, who improved to 13-0.

EC trailed 41-35 at halftime.

ECCC squads were scheduled to travel to Hinds Community College Tuesday, Jan. 20.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF January 11, 2015

East Central men never trail in win against Co-Lin

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Paula Merritt

Jones collides with a defender

East Central Community College's Demarkus Jones collides with a Copiah-Lincoln Community College defender and is called for the charge Thursday night in Decatur.

Posted: Friday, January 16, 2015 5:00 am

By Reed DeSalvo rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — East Central Community College led from start to finish.

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"We played hard and played together," Henry said. "They made a run, but we made our shots to get the win. We're a very confident team. We know we're a good team, and we can beat anybody if we play our game.

The Wolfpack (2-11, 0-4) managed to cut the deficit to six with 1:53 remaining, but ECCC was able to stave off any late rally thanks to clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch.

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Additionally, Thompson said it's imperative for his squad to win its home games in the highly South Division of MACJC conference.

"Our side is very tough," Thompson said. "You have to defend your home floor. It's that old formula: Win your home games and split on the road, and right now we're doing that. We just have to maintain what we're doing."

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"That's what we are all about," Porter said. "Tough, pressure defense, and making teams uncomfortable. We try to not let people be in their comfort zone. If they're right-handed, make them go left. If they're left-handed, we want to force them right."

Jones was the team's catalyst with in the first half as she scored 11 of her 14 points in the half, in helping her squad build its lead to as many as nine, 28-19.

"This was a team effort," Jones said. "They started double-teaming me in the second half and the rest of the team stepped up. We've been working hard all year. Two practices a day, icing and heating, and we just listened to coach and had focused."

However, with the help of some late free throws, the Lady Lions managed to close the deficit to the three at the half, 34-31.

A pivotal part in the game occurred with just under 15 minutes remaining as EMCC's leading scorer, Ki-Ki Patterson at 14.2 points per game, was forced to the bench with four fouls.

"That was huge," Thompson

"We had good balance (Tuesday)," said East Mississippi coach Mark White of his squad, which shot 62-percent for the game. "The key to our team is having a good balance offensively. In our two losses, we shot (68) 3-point shots. We talked about not coming out and shooting a bunch of 3s. We've been very good offensively throughout the year."

East Mississippi (8-2) led at halftime by 13, and managed to stave off any rally the Warriors attempted.

Former Meridian High School standout Antonio Finley and Jahyde Gardiner led EMCC with 20 points each.

"Everybody is just buying in," said Finley, who is the reigning MACJC Player of the Week. "We have a young team, so every night it's all about for effort. It's all about how hard we are willing to go every possession. We have to do whatever it takes to win, we have to continue to do the little things."

With the win, East Mississippi CC avenges an 80-77 loss at the

"We have to take a day off and get our legs back under us," Thompson said. "We have to set our focus to in for conference play. We have to get better defensively. Offensively, we have been pretty good all year, and we have to keep grinding. I'm excited with where we are, and we just have to stay focused."

Meanwhile, East Mississippi will return to action Thursday at Meridian Community College.

"We have to defend and rebound," White said. "That's what this program has been about. This may be the best offensive team that we have ever had. So that's not going to be our problem. We have to continue to value every possession and win every possession."

For East Central, Isaiah Taylor scored a team-high 17 points and Quinton Campbell added 13 points.

La'Datren Deas scored 16 points, Juan Davis Jr. scored 13, and Shelvick Henry Jr. chipped in with 12 points for East Mississippi.

Appeared in:

Carthaginian _____	Newton Appeal _____
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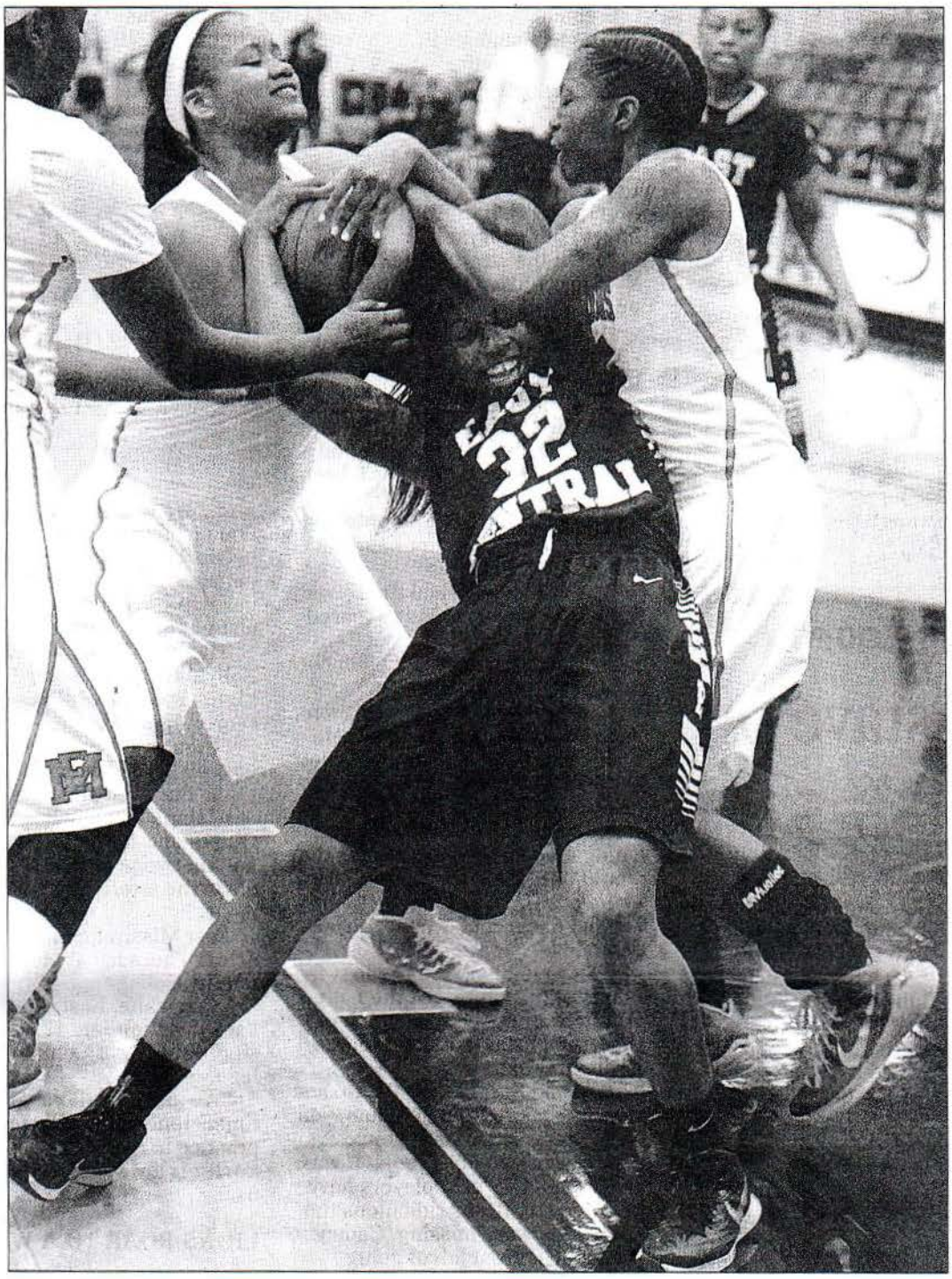
WEEK OF Jan. 4, 2015

SPLIT DECISION

ECCC women top EMCC, Lions defeat Warriors



By Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Shakerya Morrison gets tangled up as she battles for a rebound against East Mississippi Community College's Alecha Gibbs, left, and Ki-Ki Patterson in Scooba Tuesday night.

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

SCOOBA — In a contest that was filled with tension until the very end, East Central Community College demonstrated composure and kept its nerve to take a 67-65 road win over rival East Mississippi Community College.

With five seconds remaining in the game and, EMCC trailed by two points as it inbounded from underneath its own basket. Ki-Ki Patterson dribbled past the timeline but an errant pass was picked off to preserve the win for East Central.

"We played good, solid defense to get the ball back at the end," East Mississippi coach Sharon Thompson said. "And we forced a shot-clock violation. I didn't agree with the time put back on the game clock, but we got the ball with five seconds left, and that is plenty of enough time. We came down the floor and we had a crucial turnover."

East Central (10-1) rode the scoring of Kalybriah Haskin and Jalesia Jones and the inside play of Shakerya Morrison as the trio combined to score 40 points.

"Jones is the staple of our program," East Central Community College coach Crandal Porter said. "She is the heart and soul of her program. Haskin is a freshman that has just been put into the starting lineup from San Diego, and she's doing a rally good job for us.

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WEEK OF _____

pg. 2

SPLIT from page B1

Morrison is a hard-worker who fits in with our program."

Down the stretch, the Lady Warriors turned to their point guard Tynika Bender, who converted her last four free throw attempts and finished with 10 points.

"Along with Jones, she's the other staple," Porter said. "She played for me in high school (at Newton High School). She's been with me for seven years. She knows everything we want to do. We want the ball in her hands at the end of the games.

The contest marked the second occasion the two squads squared off in the season, with East Central recording an 89-61 win on Nov. 13.

"It's tough to beat a team twice, and those two games show that," East Central coach Crandal Porter said. "We like to use a lot of animal analogies, and we talked about (EMCC) being a wounded animal. Things are not going like how they would like. We knew they would come out and fight, and an animal is most dangerous when it's wounded."

EMCC (5-5) scored the first five points of the game, but the Lady Warriors would control much of the action from that point forward in the first half.

"We had the right shots, we just weren't making them," Thompson said. "Especially our post players; they weren't making shots. It was ridiculous. Our post players have got to score. It was ridiculous the shots they were missing. Camry Jones did a great job of going down the middle of the defense and dishing it off, but the post players weren't ready to score."

ECCC forced multiple turnovers which turned it turned into easy baskets.

> "We try not to let peope be in their comfort zone."
>
> — ECCC women's coach Crandal Porter

said. "We've got to have her on the floor. The entire team has got to be smarter. In the first half, the entire team was in foul trouble. We gave up some silly fouls, and we've just got to be smarter."

The Lady Lions were led by Robyn Rush who scored a team-high 14 points, while Patterson scored 13 points.

"(Rush) was our best scoring post player (Tuesday)," Thompson said. "But even she missed some easy shots that she has to make. (Rush) and (Ashley Johnson) missed two point-blank layups down the stretch that we have to make."

East Mississippi will be back in action Thursday at Meridian Community College.

Meanwhile, East Central will be back in action Jan. 12 at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

"We just take it one game at a time," Jones said. "We fight at practice to get better and Coach Porter is always there pushing us."

LIONS ROAR TO A WIN

Five players scored in double figures for East Mississippi Community College as the Lions topped East Central Community College, 92-79, in MACJC action Tuesday night.

hands of East Central CC on Nov. 13. Additionally, the Lions improved their mark to 15-3 over ECCC in White's tenure.

"They're a similar type team to us," White said. "When they get on a roll, they are difficult to guard. They have a really good team. I was real pleased with our kids staying with the game plan."

With the loss, ECCC (6-5) has now lost three of its last four contests.

"They came out very focused and made some big shots in the first half," East Central coach Robert Thompson said. "I was proud of our team effort, but we have to give (EMCC) credit. They were focused and made some big plays."

EMCC started the contest fast and furious as they jumped out to an 18-3 advantage six minutes into the contest.

"We were taking good shots," said White of his squad, which shot 62-percent for the game. "We weren't taking quick shots."

Yet East Central responded with back-to-back 3-point makes from Prince McDaniel, who finished with 16 points, to cut the deficit to nine, 18-9. However, the Warriors were never able to sustain a large enough scoring run to position themselves for a comeback win.

"We never did have any big runs in the game," Thompson said. "Basketball is a game of spurts, and they had them, and we didn't. It was one of those nights."

For the game, the Warriors connected on 11 3-point attempts, while EMCC recorded 11 of its own.

"Every day, I come in and work hard and go harder than everybody and try to bring it," Finley said. "I know sometimes I get a little too emotional, but that's the competitive fire that I have. I try to go hard so maybe the (freshman) catch on and will go hard as well."

East Central will travel to Mississippi Gulf Coast on Jan. 12.

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Johnson said the opportunity to play with Mississippi State signee Malik Newman on the Jackson Tigers Amateur Athletic Union team for the past two years aided his confidence and enabled him to showcase his skills to a bigger audience. After waiting for so long to have colleges come calling, Johnson is eager to show he can handle the "big challenge" of going to the Division I level.

"I want to work on my shooting and ballhandling and getting bigger," Johnson said. "I have to get bigger. They said they are going to get me bigger and stronger."

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WEEK OF Dec 20, 2015

NEWS

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by admin • December 16, 2015 • Comments Off

From school reports

Five East Central Community College basketball players scored in double figures as the Warriors broke a two-game losing streak with an 81-76 road win over the Delgado Community College Dolphins in New Orleans on Monday.

In the first game of the evening, the East Central Lady Warriors got another standout performance from sophomore guard Alexia McDonald in a 70-57 win over the Lady Dolphins.

The East Central teams swept Delgado at home in Decatur back on Nov. 5, with the Lady Warriors winning 84-46 and the Warriors coming out on top 87-76.

In the men's action Monday evening, East Central got 11 points and a game-high 13 rebounds from freshman forward Tonzell Handy out of Lanier High School in Jackson. The Warriors out-rebounded Delgado 41 to 36 in the contest. Also scoring in double figures for the Warriors were guard Prince McDaniel out of Pascagoula High School with 17 points, guard Ravion Henry out of Leake Central High School with 13, guard Isaiah Traylor out of Tupelo High School with 13, and point guard Keion Peoples out of Ridgeway High School in Memphis with 11. Peoples also had team highs of seven assists and three steals.

East Central improved to 5-4 with the win. Delgado fell to 3-12.

McDonald scored 28 points to lead the Lady Warriors to victory in the first game. The 5-10 product of Petal High School has scored 31, 25, 30, and now 28 points in her last four outings. She also pulled down eight rebounds and had seven steals against Delgado. East Central had 16 steals for the game.

Point guard Shadejha Brown out of Lake High School was the only other Lady Warrior in double figures with 10 points

The Lady Warriors improved to 7-2 overall. The Lady Dolphins fell to 3-11.

East Central's basketball teams won't hit the hardwood again until Jan. 5 when they host rival East Mississippi Community College at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the Decatur campus.

Listen to all East Central basketball games at: http://850amwqst.com.

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ECCC sweeps Delgado on the road

From school reports

Five East Central Community College basketball players scored in double figures as the Warriors broke a two-game losing streak with an 81-76 road win over the Delgado Community College Dolphins in New Orleans Monday, Dec. 14.

In the first game of the evening, the East Central Lady Warriors got another standout performance from sophomore guard Alexia McDonald in a 70-57 win over the Lady Dolphins.

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WEEK OF Dec. 13, 2015

EC splits showdown against Northeast CC

The East Central Community College Lady Warrior basketball team went on a 17-4 run midway through the third quarter to pull away from the Northeast Mississippi Community College Lady Tigers and earn a 89-75 victory in a non-division matchup Dec. 10 in Booneville.

In the nightcap, the Northeast Tigers pulled ahead 28-27 with 8:26 remaining in the first half and never trailed again in an 89-80 win over the East Central Warriors.

The Lady Warriors trailed 43-42 at the half before outscoring Northeast 30-13 in the pivotal third quarter.

Alexia McDonald again led the way for East Central with another big offensive game. The sophomore forward from Petal High School had a game-high 30 points. She is

Haskin, a product of Olympian High School in Chula Vista, Calif., with 15, Oak Grove High School product Samantha Duncan with 12, and Miracle Rushing, out of Meridian High School, with 10. Rushing also pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds. The Lady Warriors produced 17 steals on the night.

The Lady Warriors improved to 6-2 overall. The Lady Tigers fell to 4-5.

In the men's action, East Central trailed by 12 at the half and by as many as 17 in the second half before pulling to within five, 85-80, with 27 seconds remaining in the contest.

However, the Tigers hit all four of their free throws down the stretch to close out the 89-80 win.

It was the second

again led the way for the Warriors with 14 points.

Ravion Henry out of Leake Central High School came off the bench to also score 14, and Randy Phillips from Lanier High School in Jackson also came off the bench to score 12 points and pull down a game-high nine rebounds. Isaiah Traylor out of Tupelo High School, who recently signed a National Letter of Intent with Arkansas State, scored 11.

The East Central Warriors fell to 4-4 with the loss. The Northeast Tigers improved to 7-3.

The Warriors and Lady Warriors were scheduled to conclude the fall portion of their seasons Monday at Delgado Community College in New Orleans in games that begin at 5 and 7 p.m.

East Central

said, "You have to do it. I but you just do it," he to be hard to adjust to,

there was no cement explanation for what caused the sudden blast. "I'm convinced it was

then to a nursing facility in Morton for rehabilitation before he got a bed at the Martha Jo Leslie

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WEEK OF 12/6/15

Warriors run past Meridian

By Robbie Robertson
sports@newtoncountyappeal.com

The East Central basketball teams would make good sprinters in track and field. They are very fast out of the gate.

The Lady Warriors jumped out to a 9-0 lead, scored 32 first-period points and cruised to a 86-55 win over visiting MCC on Thursday at Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium. The East Central men followed suit, jumping out to a 20-5 lead and hammering the Eagles 85-59 in the nightcap.

"It's always important to win your division games at home," East Central coach Crandal Porter said. "I thought we came out strong in the first five minutes of the game, and that's sort of been our MO this year. We generally score 25-30 points in the first period."

In the second half, the Lady Warriors started to make some free throws, hitting 13-of-20 after going 5-of-15 in the first half and outscored MCC 21-13 to take a 67-40 lead into the final period. Meridian cut the lead to 72-50 with 7:01 left in the game before East Central went on 13-4 run to close out the Lady Eagles.

Alexia McDonald led the Lady Warriors with 31 points while Samantha Duncan had 17 points and Miracle Rushing had 11 and Kalybriah Haskin added 10. Andriel Moss led MCC with 14 points.

ECCC men 85, Meridian 59

Much like the women's game, the East Central men made a statement early, jumping out to a 20-5 lead behind the hot shooting of Isaiah Traylor to take a 26-point win over the visiting Eagles.

"We hit some big shots early and got the crowd into the game," ECCC coach Robert Thompson said. " I thought we played with a lot of energy. But really the difference from the beginning was the play of our defense. I thought we were outstanding on the defensive end."

The Warriors hit six 3-pointers in the first half and led 41-24 at the half, despite Meridian shooting 13-of-13 from free-throw line.

MCC put together a 12-4 run to cut the lead to 49-40 with 12:27 left to play, but that was as close as the Eagles got.

The Warriors (4-2, 1-0 South) had five players in double digits as Ravion Henry had 16 points, followed by Keion Peoples with 14, Isaiah Traylor and Tonzell Handy with 11 apiece while Joel Baskin had 10 points.

Frankie Collins led Meridian (4-3, 0-1) with 12 points while Javontay Rogers had 11 points.

APPEARED IN:

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MERIDIAN STAR _____

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ECCC hoopsters sweep rival Meridian

The East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams both jumped out to early leads and never looked back in posting double-digit wins over nearby rival Meridian Community College in a Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division doubleheader played Thursday, Dec. 3, in Brackeen-Wood Gym on the Decatur campus.

The ECCC Lady Warriors jumped out to a 9-0 lead en route to an 86-55 win. The Lady Warriors improved to 5-1 overall on the season and 1-0 in the South Division, while the MCC Lady Eagles fell to 1-7 and 0-1.

In the men's game, the East Central Warriors raced to a 20-5 first-half lead over the Meridian Eagles on the way to a 26-point 85-59 victory. East Central improved to 4-2 overall and 1-0 in the South Division. Meridian fell to 4-3 and 0-1.

Alexia McDonald, a sophomore forward from Petal High School, led the Lady Warriors with 31 points, while guard Samantha Duncan from Oak Grove High School had 17 points. Guard Miracle Rushing out of Meridian High School had 11 and guard Kalybriah Haskin out of Olympian High School in Chula Vista, Calif., added 10.

Five Warriors scored in double digits in the men's win, led by sophomore guard Ravion Henry out of Leake Central High School with 16 points. Keion Peoples out of Ridgeway High School in Memphis had 14 points and eight assists, and guard Isaiah Traylor from Tupelo High School, forward Tonzell Handy from Lanier High School, and guard Joel Baskin, a product of Meridian High School, each had 11 points. Handy had a team-high 13 rebounds.

The Warriors and Lady Warriors hit the road next week for a pair of games each.

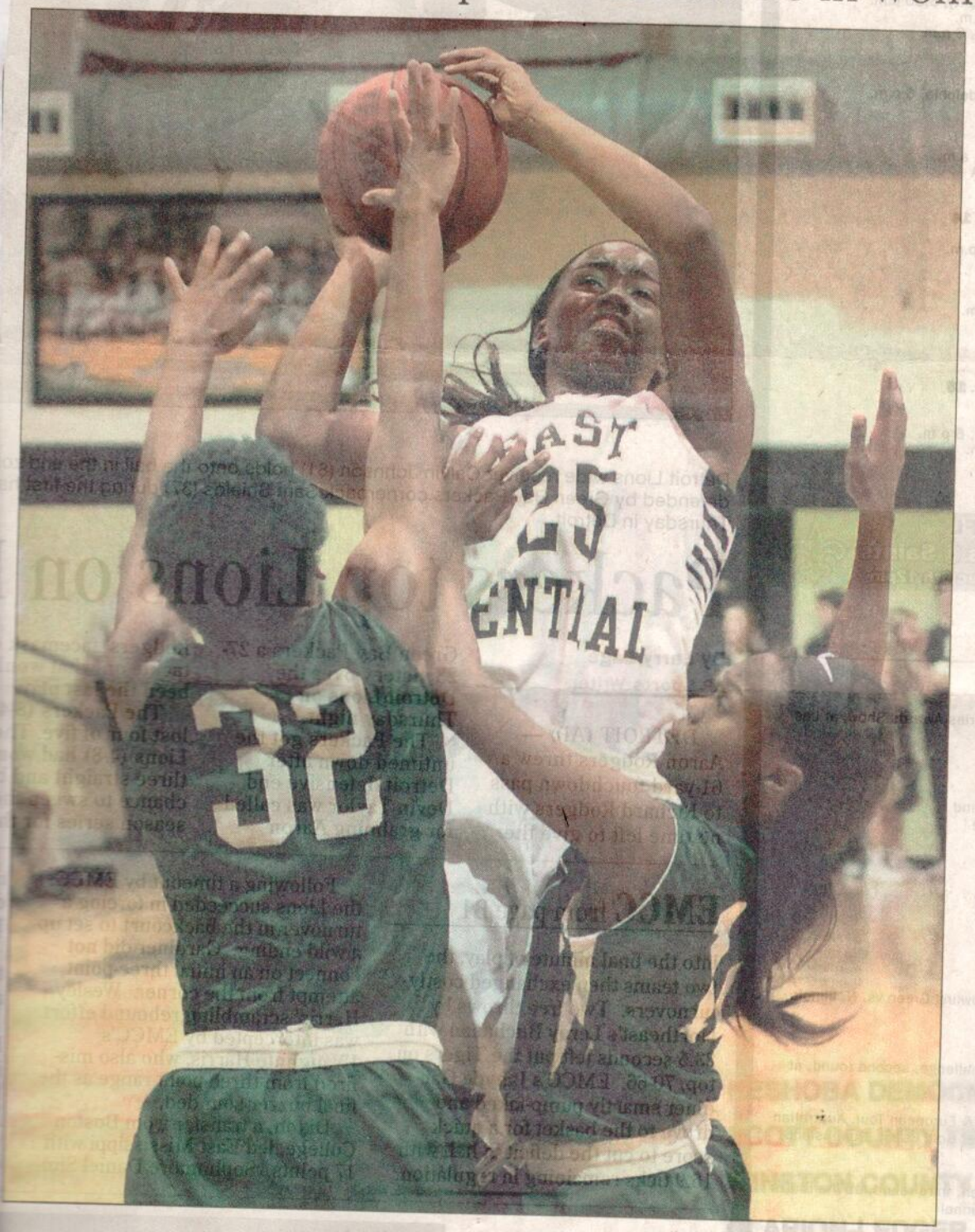
The East Central teams were scheduled to face South Division foe Jones County Monday in Ellisville in games at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 10, the Warriors and Lady Warriors will be in Booneville to play Northeast Mississippi at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

WEEK OF NOV. 29

LADY WARRIORS WIN

East Central CC rolls past Meridian CC in women's basketball



Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Miracle Rushing hits a jumper from near the top of the key against Meridian Community College Thursday night.

By Robbie Robertson
Special to the Star

DECATUR — The East Central Lady Warriors have been strong starters all season. On Thursday night, the Warriors followed suit.

The Lady Warriors jumped out to a 9-0 lead, scored 32 first-period points and cruised to a 86-55 win over visiting MCC on Thursday at Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium. The East Central men followed suit, jumping out to a 20-5 lead and hammering the Eagles 85-59 in the nightcap.

With the win, the Lady Warriors improve to 5-1 on the season while the MCC day Eagles fall to 1-7 on the season.

For East Central coach Crandal Porter, it was an important win being the South division opener for both teams.

"It's always important to win your division games at home," Porter said. "You have to win your home games in the division and then try to steal a win or two on the road.

"I thought we came out strong in the first five minutes of the game and that's sort of been our MO this year. We generally score 25-30 points in the first period."

The Lady Warriors blitzed the Lady Eagles in the first period as they jumped out to a 9-0 lead and led 12-7 with 6:15 left in the period. From there, the Lady Warriors went on a 15-2 run and led 27-9 with 1:33 left in the first and had a 32-14 lead at the end of the first.

"We talked about those first five minutes as well," McGillberry said. "They thought they were ready but

See ECCC on page B3

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Nov. 29
pg. 2

ECCC from page B1

I guess they weren't. They got rolling in that first period and we couldn't get them slowed down."

From that point on in the game, the Lady Warriors were able to maintain their first-period lead as they led 46-27 at the half.

"I thought we played with a lot of energy in the first half and did a good job of creating turnovers and getting a lot of layups," Porter said. "We play a lot of kids and I thought we wore them down."

In the second half, the Lady Warriors started to make some free throws, hitting 13-of-20 after going 5-of-15 in the first half and outscored MCC 21-13 to take a 67-40 lead into the final period. Meridian cut the lead to 72-50 with 7:01 left in the game before East Central went on 13-4 run to close out the Lady Eagles.

Alexia McDonald led the Lady Warriors with 31 points while Samantha Duncan had 17 points and Miracle Rushing had 11 and Kalybriah Haskin added 10. Andriel Moss led MCC with 14 points.

East Central 85, Meridian 59

Much like the women's game, the East Central men made a statement early, jumping out to a 20-5 lead behind the hot shooting of Isaiah Traylor to take a 26-point win over the visiting Eagles.

"I thought we played with a lot of energy," ECCC coach Robert Thompson said. "We hit some big shots early and got the crowd into the game. I thought we played with a lot of energy. But really the difference from the beginning was the play of our defense. I thought we were outstanding on the defensive end."

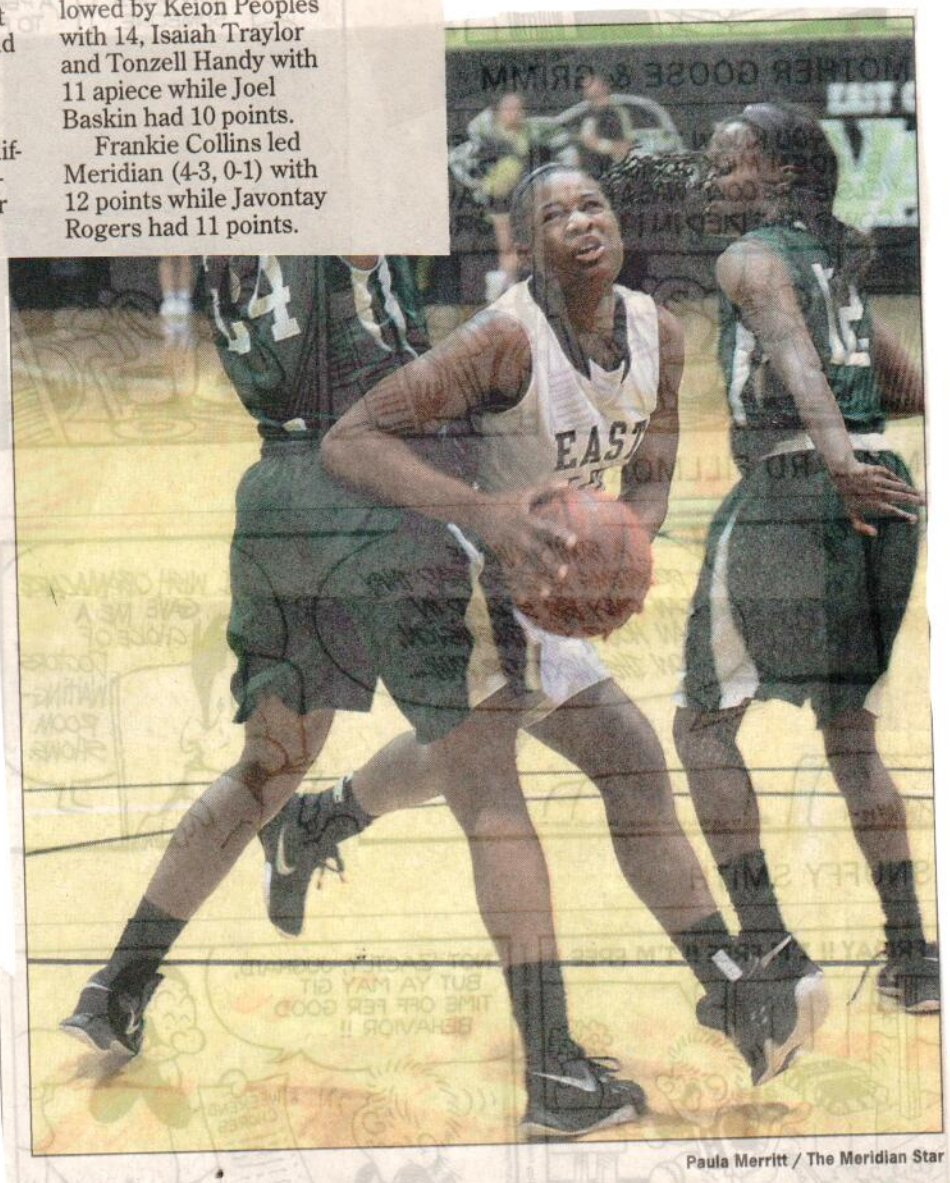
The Warrors hit six 3-pointers in the first half and led 41-24 at the half, despite Meridian shooting 13-of-13 from free-throw line.

The game actually got close in the second half as MCC put together a 12-4 run to cut the lead to nine at 49-40 with 12:27 left to play.

But that was as close as the Eagles got as the Warriors outscored the Eagles 17-5 over the next three minutes to take a 66-45 lead with 9:19 left to play.

The Warriors (4-2, 1-0 South) had five players in double digits as Ravion Henry had 16 points, followed by Keion Peoples with 14, Isaiah Traylor and Tonzell Handy with 11 apiece while Joel Baskin had 10 points.

Frankie Collins led Meridian (4-3, 0-1) with 12 points while Javontay Rogers had 11 points.



Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Alexia McDonald drives between a pair of Meridian Community College defenders Thursday night in Decatur.

WEEK OF 11/22/15

BASKETBALL

EC women win, men lose on road

By ECCC sports information

The East Central Community College women's basketball team improved to 3-1 on the young season with a 98-70 road win over the Coahoma Community College Lady Tigers last night (Nov. 16).

The East Central men fell to 2-2 after dropping a 78-76 decision to the Coahoma Tigers.

The games were played in The Pinnacle on the Coahoma campus in Clarksdale.

The East Central Warriors and Lady Warriors swept Coahoma in their season openers Nov. 2 in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the Decatur campus.

The Lady Warriors were led by sophomore forward Alexia McDonald of Petal High School and sophomore guard Samantha Duncan of Oak Grove High School, both with 23 points. Duncan was 5 of 11 from beyond the three point arc. Sophomore guard Miracle Rushing, a product of Meridian High School, added 16 points, along with a team-high 11 rebounds.

All three players had four steals each. The Lady Warriors had 18 steals in the contest.

In the nightcap, the Warriors built a seven point halftime lead at 44-37, but could not hold on as Coahoma got the two-point win. East Central hit just six of 19 shots in the second half.

Sophomore point guard Keion Peoples out of Ridgeway High School in Memphis poured in 21 points to lead East Central. He also had team highs of five assists and three steals. Isaiah Traylor, a sophomore guard from Tupelo High School, added 18 points and sophomore guard Prince McDaniel of Pascagoula High School chipped in 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The East Central teams close out the week hosting the Spring Hill College junior varsity teams in Brackeen-Wood Gym on the Decatur campus at 2 and 4 p.m. on Friday.

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WEEK OF 11/15/15

Lady Warriors drop pair to East Mississippi

The East Mississippi Community College Lions and Lady Lions swept past the East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams in doubleheader action on the EMCC Scooba campus Thursday.

It was the first loss for both the ECCC Warriors and Lady Warriors.

EMCC won the women's action 84-75. The East Central Lady Warriors are now 2-1 on the young season. The EMCC Lady Lions improved to 3-0.

EMCC also won the men's action by nine points, 73-64. The Lions improved to 4-0, while the East Central Warriors fell to 2-1.

Leading the way for the East Central Lady Warriors on the evening was sophomore guard Samantha Duncan out of Oak Grove High School with 13 points. Also scoring in double figures for the Lady Warriors were sophomore guard Miracle Rushing, a product of Meridian High School, with 12 points; sophomore forward Alexia McDonald out of Petal High School, with 11; and sophomore point guard Johnta' Hughes out of Hattiesburg High School with 10.

In the nightcap, freshman forward Tonzell Handy from Lanier High School in Jackson scored in double figures for the second straight contest to lead East Central with 14 points. Sophomore forward Derrick Dandridge out of Memphis White Station also had 14. Sophomore guard Isaiah Traylor out of Tupelo High School added 11 and sophomore guard Prince McDaniel, a product of Pascagoula High School, chipped in 10.

The East Central men and women return to action on Monday, Nov. 16, when they travel to Clarksdale to face Coahoma Community College in games that tip off at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. The Warriors and Lady Warriors swept Coahoma in games played in Decatur Nov. 2.

The ECCC teams close out the week hosting the Spring Hill College junior varsity teams in Brackeen-Wood Gym on the Decatur campus at 2 and 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20.

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WEEK OF NOV. 8

EC teams stay undefeated

By ECCC sports information

The East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams both remained undefeated as the Warriors and Lady Warriors swept Delgado Community College Nov. 5 at Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus

The Lady Warriors won the opener over the Lady Dolphins from New Orleans 84-46. The Lady Warriors are now 2-0. The Lady Dolphins fell to 1-3.

The Warriors won the nightcap 87-76.

The Warriors improved to 2-0, while the Dolphins fell to 0-4.

Sophomore forward Alexia McDonald out of Petal High School led the Lady Warriors with 15 points. Sophomore guard Miracle Rushing, a product of Meridian High School, added 12 points. Freshman guard Bryona Stewart out of Itawamba Agricultural High School had her second game in double figures with 11, including three three-pointers.

In the men's action, sophomore guard Isaiah Traylor out of Tupelo High School led the Warriors with 18 points, with 11 of those coming in the second half. Sophomore guard Prince McDaniel, a product of Pascagoula High School, added 17. Freshman forward Tonzell Handy from Lanier High School in Jackson chipped in 16, including 14 in the second half. Sophomore forward Derrick Dandridge out of Memphis White Station had several key second half baskets and finished with 13. Point guard Keion Peoples out of Ridgeway High School in Memphis had 11 points.

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WEEK OF NOV 8

JUNIOR COLLEGE

EMCC men, women sweep ECCC

By Drew Kerekes
dkerekes@themeridianstar.com

SCOOBA — Through two games, East Mississippi Community College women's basketball coach Sharon Thompson wasn't pleased with her team's free-throw shooting.

After Thursday night's game against East Central Community College, she can rest a little bit easier — until the next game anyway.

The Lady Lions (3-0) were 18 of 21 from the foul line as they pulled away late with a 84-75 win. The Lady Warriors (2-1), by contrast, were just 11 of 25. Thompson said improved free-throw shooting played a big part in her team staying one step ahead of ECCC.

"In our first two games, we shot 55 percent from the free-throw line," Thompson said. "That was one of our keys to getting this victory, to get at least 70 percent from the line. In our first two games, we got to the line, but you can't shoot 55 percent against good teams."

Freshman forward Quantesha Patterson dominated the game offensively for EMCC, finishing with a game-high 31 points while reeling in nine rebounds. Sophomore guard Ki-Ki Patterson added 16 points to round out EMCC's double-digit scoring. While Thompson said she was pleased with Patterson's offensive output, she said the young forward still has some development ahead of her on the other end of the floor.

"For a freshman, she's scoring the ball exceptionally well, but she's going to have to learn how to play on the defensive end," Thompson said.

For the first three quarters, both teams were hot when the other one was cold. It wasn't until the fourth quarter when it became more of a back-and-forth game. With EMCC clinging to a 79-75 lead and 1:18 left to play, the Lady Lions were able to prevent the Lady Warriors from scoring in the final minute, and sophomore guard Tianna Germain drew a couple of key fouls, draining three out of four foul shots, and hit a field goal to give her team the 84-75 edge.

ECCC coach Crandal Porter said he felt EMCC executed better than his girls, especially during the first three quarters.

"We took bad shots that weren't in the scope of what we do," Porter said. "We're really systematic. There's freedom

See EMCC on page B2

EMCC from page B1

(in our system), but the freedom comes from within what we do.

"A couple of times they switched from guard to post, and we would have a guard with a post player on them and just shoot a 3 instead of driving. I thought we didn't execute in a lot of stretches in the game. When we did, we made runs."

EMCC led 25-16 after one quarter of play before ECCC outscored the Lady Lions 22-16 to cut the lead to 41-38 at the break. The Lady Warriors kept pace again in the third quarter, with EMCC having a 60-54 advantage going into the final period.

The Lady Warriors had four players finish in double digits in scoring. Samantha Duncan led her team with 14 points, while Miracle Rushing finished with 13 points. Alexia McDonald added 11 points, and Johnta' Hughes chipped in with 10 points.

"It's good when you have a lot of kids who can score," Porter said. "That's just a staple of what we do. At East Central, we share the ball."

Late in the fourth quarter, freshman Cam Campbell sustained a knee injury and didn't return. Thompson said after the game she wasn't aware of the extent of the injury.

ECCC (2-1) will play at Coahoma Community College Monday, while EMCC (3-0) will host Lawson State Community College Monday.

EMCC 73, ECCC 64

After signing to continue his basketball career at Tennessee-Martin earlier Thursday, EMCC's Jahyde Gardiner scored a career-high 27 points to lead his team against ECCC.

Gardiner had 19 points in the second half, including going 6 of 6 from the field in the final two quarters.

For EMCC, Nat Dixon tallied 13 points, all in the second half, and was 3 of 3 from beyond the 3-point line. Daniel Simmons added 10 points for the Lions.

ECCC had four players in double figures: Tonzell Handy and Derrick Dandridge with 14 points, Isaiah Traylor with 11 points and Prince McDaniel with 10 points.

EMCC (4-0) will host Spring Hill College junior varsity. ECCC (2-1) will play at Coahoma Community College.

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WEEK OF NOV. 8, 2015

Delgado Community College

Delgado falls to East Central
Men's Basketball
Posted: 11/6/2015 10:22:00 AM
Delgado dropped two games to East Central Mississippi College on Thursday evening in Decatur, Mississippi.

The Lady Dolphins trailed the Warriors 50-24 at the half before eventually falling 84-46. Paulnisha Milton scored 17 and Erille Stewart had 12 points.

The Delgado Men trailed by five at the half before falling in a 87-76 decision. Markel Williams scored 22 and Jeff Dixon posted 14 to lead Delgado.

The Delgado Men travel to Summit, Mississippi on Saturday. Both teams will face Hinds in Utica on Monday evening.
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delgadoathletics.com

WEEK OF NOV. 8, 2015

EMCC Sweeps ECCC At Home

By: EMCC Media Relations
Posted: Fri 4:00 PM, Nov 13, 2015

– The unbeaten East Mississippi Community College basketball teams claimed a home MACJC sweep over rival East Central Community College with a pair of nine-point wins Thursday evening at Keyes T. Currie Coliseum. The Lady Lions earned an 84-75 victory over the ECCC women in the opener, while the Lions capped the successful night with a 73-64 win over the Warriors.

In the women's contest, the Lady Lions maintained control early with a 25-16 lead after the first quarter of play. ECCC's Bryona Stewart's buzzer-beating 3-pointer cut the deficit to 41-38 heading into halftime. EMCC extended its lead to a dozen points (58-46) with a 9-0 run capped by a three-point play by Cam Campbell late in the third quarter. The Warriors did manage to slice the deficit in half (60-54) heading into the fourth quarter. The visitors kept the margin at single digits throughout the final period, while getting as close as four points on four different occasions over the final four minutes of play.

After East Central pulled to within 79-75 with 1:18 remaining on Samantha Duncan's basket, sophomore transfer point guard Tianna Germain hit a pull-up jumper and added three charity tosses down the stretch to seal the victory for head coach Sharon Thompson's 3-0 Lady Lion squad.

Reigning MACJC Player of the Week Quantesha Patterson continued her torrid play by adding 16 second-half points to her 15 first-half total to give her 31 points for the second straight contest. The former East Webster High School standout hit 13-of-21 shots from the field and added nine rebounds in EMCC's most recent winning effort after recording her first collegiate double-double (31 pts & 11 rebs) during last week's 68-52 road victory over Meridian CC.

Sophomore guard Ki-Ki Patterson, of Columbus, followed with 16 points against East Central, while Germain and Camry Jones added nine points apiece for the winners.

The 2-1 ECCC women had four players in double figures, led by Duncan with 14 points and Miracle Rushing with 13 points. Alexia McDonald and Johnta' Hughes followed with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

In the nightcap, head coach Billy Begley's EMCC Lions never trailed en route to their fourth victory in as many outings on the year. A 10-point (33-23) halftime advantage grew to 16 points (47-31) early in the second half on the heels of back-to-back 3-pointers by Boston College transfer Nat Dixon.

The EMCC men maintained their double-digit cushion throughout the second stanza up until the four-minute mark when the Warriors made a couple of late-game pushes. After East Central closed to within four points (63-59) by the 2:37 mark following a 3-pointer by Isaiah Traylor and two free throws from Derrick Dandridge, Dixon drilled another clutch trey to give the Lions some temporary breathing room.

The visitors made one final rally when Traylor hit another 3-pointer to again cut the deficit to four points (68-64) with 1:48 remaining. The Warriors had a chance to make it a one-possession game following an EMCC turnover, but Prince McDaniel's off-balance shot in the lane rolled off the rim.

Having signed his National Letter of Intent with the University of Tennessee at Martin earlier in the day, sophomore forward Jahyde Gardiner capped a career-high, 29-point performance with a three-point play with 32.8 seconds left to seal EMCC's doubleheader sweep over East Central. A reigning all-state performer for the Lions, Gardiner connected on all six of his second-half field goal tries to finish with 19

APF
CAF
NEV
SPI
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WTOK X

East Central men, women open season with two wins each

From school reports

The East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams both remained undefeated as the Warriors and Lady Warriors swept Delgado Community College on Thursday at Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus

The Lady Warriors won the opener over the Lady Dolphins from New Orleans 84-46. The Lady Warriors are now 2-0. The Lady Dolphins fell to 1-3. The Warriors won the nightcap 87-76. The Warriors improved to 2-0, while the Dolphins fell to 0-4.

The East Central men and women have a week off before returning to action next Thursday, Nov. 12, when they travel to Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges rival East Mississippi Community College. Game times are 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Keyes T. Currie Coliseum in Scooba.

The Lady Warriors never trailed in the contest. The game was last tied at 7-7 early in the first period. Back to back three-pointers pushed the East Central lead to six, 13-7. The Lady Dolphins closed the gap to 17-16 near the end of the first period, but it was the closest they would get the rest of the evening.

East Central led 21-16 after the first period and then scored 24 unanswered points to start the second period to blow the game open and stretch their lead to 40-16. The Lady Warriors led 50-24 at the half.

Sophomore forward Alexia McDonald out of Petal High School led the Lady Warriors with 15 points. Sophomore guard Miracle Rushing, a product of Meridian High School, added 12 points. Freshman guard Bryona Stewart out of Itawamba Agricultural High School had her second game in double figures with 11, including three three-pointers.

In the men's action, East Central got its first lead of the game at 13-12 after going on a 7-0 run midway through the first half. The Warriors stretched that lead to as much as six before taking a 33-28 lead to the locker room.

The Warriors scored the first six points of the second half to begin to pull away. East Central then led by double digits most of the second half. Delgado got to within eight with 3:58 remaining and to within seven with 59 seconds to go before the Warriors pulled away to the 87-76 win.

Sophomore guard Isaiah Traylor out of Tupelo High School led the Warriors with 18 points, with 11 of those coming in the second half. Sophomore guard Prince McDaniel, a product of Pascagoula High School, added 17. Freshman forward Tonzell Handy from Lanier High School in Jackson chipped in 16, including 14 in the second half. Sophomore forward Derrick Dandridge out of Memphis White Station had several key second half baskets and finished with 13. Point guard Keion Peoples out of Ridgeway High School in Memphis had 11 points.

On Tuesday The East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams opened their seasons Nov. 2 by sweeping Coahoma Community College in non-division action at Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus

The East Central women never trailed in the opening contest, cruising to a 91-44 win over the Lady Tigers. The East Central men opened up a 16-point first half lead on their way to a 97-79 win.

The Lady Warriors jumped out to an early 17-2 lead and never looked back in the 47-point win over Coahoma. All 14 Lady Warriors who played in the game scored.

The East Central women were led in scoring by sophomore guard Samantha Duncan out of Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, who poured in 17 points, with 14 coming in the first half. Duncan hit 4 of 7 three pointers and added four assists. Sophomore guard Kalybriah Haskin out of Olympian High School in Chula Vista, Calif., added 15, Stewart 13, and McDonald 11.

WEEK OF NOV 8, 2015

APPEARED IN:

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SPIRIT OF MORTON ____

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WEEK OF NOV. 1, 2015

East Central Basketball Teams Sweep Delgado to Remain Undefeated

Posted: Thu 9:20 PM, Nov 05, 2015

By: ECCC Media Relations

--The East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams both remained undefeated as the Warriors and Lady Warriors swept Delgado Community College Nov. 5 at Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus

The Lady Warriors won the opener over the Lady Dolphins from New Orleans 84-46. The Lady Warriors are now 2-0. The Lady Dolphins fell to 1-3.

The Warriors won the nightcap 87-76.

The Warriors improved to 2-0, while the Dolphins fell to 0-4.

The Lady Warriors never trailed in the contest. The game was last tied at 7-7 early in the first period. Back to back three-pointers pushed the East Central lead to six, 13-7. The Lady Dolphins closed the gap to 17-16 near the end of the first period, but it was the closest they would get the rest of the evening.

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The Lady Warriors led 50-24 at the half.

Sophomore forward Alexia McDonald out of Petal High School led the Lady Warriors with 15 points. Sophomore guard Miracle Rushing, a product of Meridian High School, added 12 points. Freshman guard Bryona Stewart out of Itawamba Agricultural High School had her second game in double figures with 11, including three three-pointers.

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The East Central men and women have a week off before returning to action next Thursday, Nov. 12, when they travel to Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges rival East Mississippi Community College. Game times are 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Keyes T. Currie Coliseum in Scooba.

Listen to both games at: http://850amwqst.com.

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Other X
WTOK.COM

ASKETBALL

East Central Warriors sweep Coahoma in season-opening games

By ECCC sports information

The East Central Commu-ity College men's and omen's basketball teams pened their seasons Nov. 2 y sweeping Coahoma Com-unity College in non-divi-on action at rackeen-Wood Physical Ed-cation Building on the De-atur campus

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The Lady Warriors jumped ut to an early 17-2 lead and ever looked back in the 47-oint win over Coahoma. oach Crandal Porter's quad played their patented st-paced game substituting ften and knocking down ine three-pointers. All 14 ady Warriors who played in e game scored.

The East Central women ere led in scoring by soph-more guard Samantha Dun-an out of Oak Grove High chool in Hattiesburg, who oured in 17 points, with 14 oming in the first half. Dun-an hit 4 of 7 three pointers nd added four assists. Sophomore guard Kalybriah Haskin out of Olympian High School in Chula Vista, Calif., added 15, freshman guard Bryona Stewart out of Itawamba Agricultural High School, 13, and sophomore forward Alexia McDonald out of Petal High School, 11.

The Coahoma Lady Tigers were led by Eugenia Gilliam with 15 points.

The Lady Warriors led 51 to 24 at the half.

The East Central men broke open a close game midway through the first half and pulled out to a 16-point halftime lead over the Coahoma Tigers, 42-26. The Warriors extended that lead to as many as 23 twice in the second half, before Coahoma stormed back and cut the lead to seven, 72-65, with 6:31 remaining.

A crucial three-point play from sophomore forward Derrick Dandridge, a product of White Station High School in Memphis, with 5:19 remaining seemed to ignite the cold shooting Warriors, pushing the lead back to 11. Another three-point play by freshman forward Tonzell Handy at the 2:56 mark put the Warriors back up by 16 en route to the win.

Sophomore guard Prince McDaniel, a product of Pascagoula High School, led all scorers with 26 points, including four three pointers. Freshman guard Joel Baskin of Meridian High School had 16, sophomore guard Ravion Henry out of Leake Central, 15, and Keion Peoples out of Ridgeway High School in Memphis, added 12.

Handy, a product of Lanier High School in Jackson, in his first college game, had 14 points and led the Warriors with 10 rebounds.

LaTerrence Henderson and Monte Martin led Coahoma with 20 points each.

The East Central men and women are back in action Thursday night, Nov. 5, hosting Delgado Community College from New Orleans. Game times are 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus.

Men's Preview

With starters at three positions and a lot of points returning, third-year East Central Community College men's basketball coach Robert Thompson believes his Warriors will be in the conversation for a state championship during the 2015-16 season.

The Warriors, who finished 14-12 last season and earned trips to both the state and region tournaments, open the season at home Nov. 2 against Coahoma. Tipoff is at 7:30 p.m. in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the Decatur campus.

Returning full-time starters for the Warriors for 2015-16 include 6-6 guard Prince McDaniel out of Pascagoula High School, 1[illegible] points per game, and 6-[illegible] guard Ravion Henry, a product of Leake Central High School, 12 points per game.

Inside, the Warriors return 6-9 center Randy Phillips and 6-8 forward Derrick Dandridge. Phillips, a product of Lanier High School in Jackson, started 14 games and averaged 4.7 points and 6.[illegible] rebounds per game. Dandridge, out of White Station High School in Memphis, started 13 games, averaging 6.2 points and 4.7 rebounds.

Also returning is 6-4 guard Isaiah Traylor out of Tupelo High School, who averaged 12 points per game while logging significant time on the court, and 5-11 point guard Keion Peoples out of Ridgeway High School in Memphis.

"We have players returning who scored a lot of points last season and who we believe can help us be successful this season," said Thompson. "We also brought in some new guys who will help us a great deal.

"Isaiah gave us 12 points a game last year, and Derrick got a significant number of minutes on the court. Randy Phillips is a presence inside and a strong rebounder and defender and he's only getting better. Keion should replace Ramone Tate at point guard and has a chance to be as good as any player at his position in the state."

One new player who Thompson is expecting to contribute heavily is 6-3 freshman guard Joel Baskin out of Meridian High School. "Joel is really practicing well and will help us a lot," said Thompson.

Thompson also said 6-5 freshman forward Tonzell Handy, a product of Lanier High School in Jackson, also should see significant playing time. "He has played really well in our scrimmages and is one of our hardest workers," Thompson said. "He has been relentless on the boards."

Women's preview

The East Central Community College women's basketball team accomplished several goals during the 2014-15 season, including 20 wins and appearances in both the state and region tournaments.

"It was the type of season we expect at East Central," said Head Coach Crandal Porter.

Now in his fourth year at the helm of the Lady Warriors, Porter says the program's goals remain the same: 20 wins, state tournament, region tournament, and national championship tournament.

"The first two years we were implementing our system and recruiting the type of players to fit that system," said Porter. "Year three things began to fall in place and we started accomplishing some of our goals. This year we have a sophomore-laden team with better leadership than the year before. They have been around the program and have a better understanding of what we are trying to do. If they can get it together on the court, then we have just as good a chance as anybody in our league to reach all of our goals."

WEEK OF Oct 25, 2015

Warriors have ingredients to have successful season

From school reports

DECATUR — With starters at three positions and a lot of points returning, third-year East Central Community College men's basketball coach Robert Thompson believes his Warriors will be in the conversation for a state championship during the 2015-16 season.

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Thompson said that freshman Shaquille Benson, a 6-10 center from Hahnville High School in Boutte, La., and 5-8 point guard Jaylon Bardley from New Hope High School are both getting better, while learning the system and adjusting to the speed of the game at the college level.

Gone from this year's squad are leading scorer and rebounder Quinton Campbell, who was named to the First-Team All-State and All-Region teams. Campbell, who signed with the University of Southern Mississippi, averaged 14 points and nine rebounds a game. Also gone is starting guard Ramone Tate.

Thompson said that developing depth off the bench will be the key to success for the Warriors this season.

Also returning is 6-foot-4 guard Isaiah Traylor out of Tupelo High School, who averaged 12 points per game while logging significant time on the court, and 5-11 point guard Keion Peoples out of Ridgeway High School in Memphis.

"We have players returning who scored a lot of points last season and who we believe can help us be successful this season," said Thompson. "We also brought in some new guys who will help us a great deal.

"Isaiah gave us 12 points a game last year, and Derrick got a significant number of minutes on the court. Randy Phillips is a presence inside and a strong rebounder and defender and he's only getting better. Keion should replace Ramone Tate at point guard and has a chance to be as good as any player at his position in the state."

One new player who

"Our top six or seven guys are going to be good," said Thompson. "Others are going to have to step up and give us quality minutes. But overall, we have the ingredients to be a very good basketball team. They are playing together, share the same goal to be successful, and the chemistry is good.

"We believe we have a shot at our goals to win the division and win the state if we bring our best game each night. We will definitely be in the conversation about who is the best team in the state."

The Warriors' schedule features 23 regular season games, all against Region 23 opponents, and 11 home games.

"It gives us a chance to see how we stack up against region opponents before the Region 23 tournament in March," noted Thompson.

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WEEK OF 00

ECCC basketball hosts inaugural Tipoff Dinner

The East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams will host the first ECCC Basketball Tipoff Dinner at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, in the Gold Room of the Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on the Decatur campus.

The cost of the dinner is $20 per person, with proceeds supporting the Warrior and Lady Warrior basketball teams.

Former East Central basketball standout and 1992 graduate Luther Riley will be the guest speaker. Riley is the current head boys coach at Columbus High School, and formerly was head coach at Provine High School and Alcorn State University.

East Central men's coach Robert Thompson and women's coach Crandal Porter will preview their upcoming seasons and introduce their teams.

To make reservations for the Tipoff Dinner, contact Thompson at 601-635-6243 or rthompson@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Oct 25, 2015

ECCC Women's Basketball Preview

By: ECCC Media Relations
Posted: Tue 3:07 PM, Oct 27, 2015

The East Central Community College women's basketball team accomplished several goals during the 2014-15 season, including 20 wins and appearances in both the state and region tournaments.

"It was the type of season we expect at East Central," said Head Coach Crandal Porter.

Now in his fourth year at the helm of the Lady Warriors, Porter says the program's goals remain the same: 20 wins, state tournament, region tournament, and national championship tournament.

"The first two years we were implementing our system and recruiting the type of players to fit that system," said Porter. "Year three things began to fall in place and we started accomplishing some of our goals. This year we have a sophomore-laden team with better leadership than the year before. They have been around the program and have a better understanding of what we are trying to do. If they can get it together on the court, then we have just as good a chance as anybody in our league to reach all of our goals."

Even though he lost four key starters from last year's 20-win team, Porter is looking for another successful season in 2015-16.

"We lost 80 percent of our scoring, our point guard, and our post player and that left some gaps," he noted. "But we have seven players returning who put in a lot of minutes last year, along with two transfers who practiced with the team and understand the system."

Gone from last season are Division I signees Shakerya Morrison (Florida A&M) and Tashi-ana Thompson (Southern University), Division II signee Jaleshia Jones (Delta State), and NAIA signee Tynika Bender (Tougaloo).

Samantha Duncan, a 5-10 guard/forward out of Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, is the lone returning starter. Porter said that the highly recruited Duncan will move from a role player last year to the focal point of the offense this season.

Also expected to play a key role this season is Kalybriah Haskin. The 5-7 guard out of Olympian High School in Chula Vista, Calif., started 14 games last season for the Warriors. Backup forward Alexia McDonald out of Petal High School and backup point guard Johnta Hughes of Hattiesburg High School also return after seeing significant playing time last year.

Miracle Rushing, a 5-9 forward out of Meridian High School and a transfer from Delta State, practiced with the Lady Warriors last season, but did not play.

"We have players who have experience with our program, but very little starting experience," said Porter. "They didn't start, but they played seven to 10 minutes a game and those are going to have to turn into 25 to 30 minutes a game."

WTOK X

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

East Central Community College to present annual 'Haunted House of Hoops'

Special to The Star

The 2015-16 editions of the East Central Community College men's and women's basketball teams will be on display at the annual "Haunted House of Hoops" scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 28. Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus.

The Lady Warriors finished 20-6 overall last season and advanced to state and region tournaments. The Warriors also advanced to state and region competition and completed last season with a 14-12 overall record.

Brief scrimmages by the Lady Warriors and Warriors will highlight the event, which also will include introductions of players by their respective head coaches, Crandal Porter and Robert Thompson.

A three-point shooting competition featuring Lady Warrior and Warrior players is also scheduled.

In addition, members of the women's softball, baseball, and men's and women's tennis teams will be recognized. Providing introductions are the respective head coaches – Kristin Chaney (softball), Neal Holliman (baseball), and Jay Pacelli (tennis).

Providing entertainment for the Haunted House of Hoops will be the Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band; the Wall O' Sound Drum Line; and the Warrior cheerleading squad.

"Trick or treat" candy will be available for youngsters wanting to get an early start on Halloween activities. A Halloween costume contest is also scheduled for ECCC students and staff members.

Refreshments and hot wings will be provided by Valley Food Services, Inc., and served by the event sponsors, the Student Body Association officers.

Admission is free, and the public is invited to attend.

For more information, contact Amanda Walton, director of housing/student activities, at 601-635-6214 or awalton@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Sept. 13, 2015

East Central CC set to host annual coaches clinic

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College women's coach Crandal Porter gives instructions to his players in a game played last season. Porter and ECCC are set to host their annual coaches clinic on September 25.

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

Local coaches will be afforded the opportunity to learn from the best and the brightest in their respective profession.

East Central Community College is set to host its annual Fall Coaches Clinic, which is set to feature some of the most successful basketball coaches from high schools around the State of Mississippi.

The clinic is slated for Friday, September 15 with registration beginning at 9 a.m. and the final session taking place at 5 p.m. on the campus of ECCC in the Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

The cost is $50 and will include lunch.

The coaching clinic will be hosted by ECCC men's coach Robert Thompson and ECCC women's coach Crandal Porter.

"We are very excited," Porter said. "I was a high school coach myself at one time, and you go to these clinics, and you see a lot of coaches that demonstrate stuff and show you things. Our idea was to get some of these high school coaches and get them to do on-court demonstration and relay stuff to other high school coaches."

Porter said in addition to top area high school coaches, a number of college coaches are expected to be on hand, noting there is valuable information to be shared at the clinic.

Porter cited a number of key influential coaches from his younger years, including Sammy Pace, Johnny Slaughter, Ernie Watson and among others, that helped him reach the level of success he has sustained.

"Starting off as a young coach, those guys were willing to share information with me," Porter said. "They made me better. That's the main reason we want to do this. These coaches in the

See ECCC on page B2

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

ECCC Basketball Hosts First Annual Tipoff Dinner

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The cost of the dinner is $20 per person, with proceeds supporting the Warrior and Lady Warrior basketball teams.

Former East Central basketball standout and 1992 graduate Luther Riley will be the guest speaker. Riley is the current head boys coach at Columbus High School, and formerly was head coach at Provine High School and Alcorn State University.

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

CCC sinks Pearl River, travel to NWCC

16th ranked East Community Warriors convert- turnovers into 13 n route to a 20-3 n over the Pearl ommunity College Oct. 22 in ille, and in the earned their first nce in the state since 2001.

the win, East finishes second in Mississippi tion of Community nior Colleges South and qualifies for e playoffs.

he No. 2 seed from uth, the Warriors in line to travel to on Saturday, to e MACJC North n champion East ippi Community Lions.

That, however, took a drastic change on Friday following a benches-clearing brawl between the Lions and Mississippi Delta Thursday night, a brouhaha that resulted in NEMCC between suspended for two games including the playoffs.

The Warriors are now set to visit Northwest Community College in Senatobia for the first game of the playoffs with kickoff set for 2 p.m. Saturday on the NWCC campus.

East Central's last playoff appearance was in 2001, a 10-7 loss to Mississippi Delta Community College.

East Central finished the regular season 7-2 overall, the best won-loss record for the Warriors since 1999. The Warriors finished 4-2 in MACJC South Division play. Pearl River finished 2-7 overall and 1-5 in the South Division.

East Mississippi, with a 9-0 overall record and 6-0 in the North Division, has won the last two state and National Junior College Athletic Association national championships.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the No. 1 seed from the South Division, will host Northwest Mississippi Community College, the No. 2 seed from the North, in the other semifinal game.

The Warriors got the scoring started against Pearl River with a 51-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket to a wide-open Henri Murphy. The freshman wide receiver out of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., caught the ball on the run at the 10-yard line and coasted in for the score. The point after kick by sophomore Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School was good and East Central led 7-0 with 3:29 to go in the first quarter. The drive covered 86 yards in eight plays.

Pearl River pulled to within 7-3 midway through the second quarter with a 22-yard field goal.

East Central extended its lead moments later when sophomore linebacker Demetrius Gooden out of Newton County High School recovered a Wildcat fumble on the Pearl River seven-yard line. The next play, Hosket, a product of French Camp Academy, tossed a seven-yard touchdown to sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento, also out of Dollarway High School. Garrett's kick put the Warriors up 14-3 late in the second quarter.

East Central took advantage of another Pearl River turnover late in the third quarter. Freshman cornerback Torran Davis, a product of Red Bank High School in Chattanooga, Tenn., recovered a Wildcat fumble at the Pearl River 13. Four plays later Garrett converted a 23-yard field goal and East Central led 17-3.

Garrett added another field goal on the second play of the fourth quarter, this time from 36-yards out and the Warriors' lead was extended to 20-3. An interception by sophomore defensive back Jaylon Lofton out of Forest High School set up the kick.

It was the Warriors first win over Pearl River since 2008.

Hosket finished the game 19 of 34 passing for 208 yards and two touchdowns. Freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, a product of Oxford High School (Ala.), had 130 yards rushing on 23 carries. Gamble was the MACJC Football Offensive Player of the Week for his play last week.

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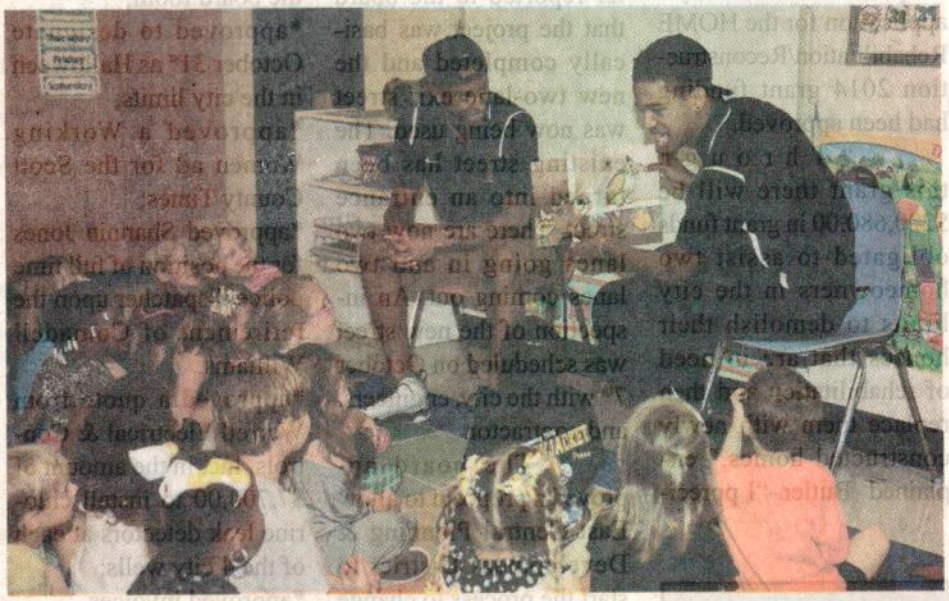
WEEK OF October 11, 2015

ECCC Warriors Read to Area Students



East Central Community College student-athletes (from left) Prince McDaniel of Pascagoula and Isaiah Traylor of Tupelo were among Warrior basketball players who recently participated in a community service project at Union Elementary School, where team members read books to students in K4 through 3rd grades. Coach Robert Thompson, who is beginning his third year as head coach of the ECCC men's team, said "We wanted to do this community service project for a couple of reasons. The first reason was to give back to the community and secondly, we felt that our players needed to see the impact they have on others, especially the youth." (EC Photo)

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MERIDIAN STAR X

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WEEK OF July 12, 2015

basketball team - The Neshoba Democrat ... http://neshobademocrat.com/main.asp?SectionID=3&SubSectionID=

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7/22/2015 6:00:00 AM

Luckett to head Union boys basketball team

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
Sports Editor

Josh Luckett, a native of Carthage, has been named the new boys basketball coach at Union High School.

Luckett replaces Scott Thomas who stepped down from coaching at the end of the last school year. Luckett will also coach Cross-Country at Union.

He graduated from Carthage High School where he played most sports. Luckett attended one year at Mississippi Valley State University where he played football. He then went on East Central Community College and played basketball for two seasons. Luckett finished his education at Belhaven College in 2013.

For the past two years, he has been employed as a teacher and assistant coach at Leake Central.

"This is my first head coaching assignment," Luckett said. "I'm looking forward to coaching at Union and becoming part of the school."

Luckett worked with the team during summer league games in June.

"I think we are going to be okay," Luckett said. "We are young but we have potential. We'll probably play a motion offense and a lot of man-to-man defense."

The Yellowjackets play in a revamped Region 5-2A that now includes Bay Springs and Heidelberg along with Enterprise, Newton High School and Clarkdale.

"We will work to improve as the season goes along," Luckett said. "By the time the district tournament gets here, we should be ready to make a run and make the playoffs."

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WEEK OF JUN 19, 2015

CHANGES ON THE HORIZON

NJCAA basketball to implement new rule changes

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College women's basketball coach Crandal Porter instructs his players during a game played last season. Inset below, East Mississippi Community College women's basketball coach Sharon Thompson walks the sidelines during a game played last season.

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WEEK OF JUN 12, 2015

7/8/2015 4:56:00 PM

NJCAA adopts several rules changes for women's basketball

By AUSTIN BISHOP

Kemper County Messenger

Junior college basketball games will not look quite the same this coming season, especially on the women's side.

The NJCAA Executive Committee recently approved for the NJCAA to adopt several new rules changes made by the NCAA, including playing four quarters instead of two halves, eliminating one-plus-one free throw situations, allowing a team to advance a ball into the forecourt late in the game in certain situations, and allowing more contact between defenders and post players.

While a press release announcing the changes noted that the move to four quarters and a change in when a team would start shooting bonus free throws would "enhance the flow of the game," a trio of local coaches aren't so sure.

"To me I think it will just make the game longer," said East Central Community College head women's coach Crandall Porter said. "Now when a team gets into the bonus you shoot two free throws every time there is a foul."

Team would begin shooting the bonus on the fifth team foul of each quarter, with the team fouls being reset to zero at the end of each quarter other than the fourth.

"It's just going to slow things up," said East Mississippi Community College head coach Sharon Thompson. "Those four 10-minute quarters will take longer than the two 20-minute halves."

Holmes Community College coach Jamilah Andrews agrees.

"I'm wondering if that is going to be for the best," she said. "I don't think it will change drastically, but it will be longer. I don't see how it will speed things up. If we are not careful the games will become a free-throw shooting contest."

In the two 20-minute half format teams began shooting a one-plus-one - if a player made the first free throw she was awarded a second one - on the seventh team foul and began shooting two shots on the 10th team foul of the half.

Porter noted that teams that like to run an up-tempo type of attack could be adversely affected with the move to quarters and the way bonus free throws will be shot.

"It's a disadvantage when you want to play up and down," he said. "It may take the fatigue factor a little out of the game."

Andrews said the way her team plays offense, the free throw changes may not make much of a difference.

"We try to attack the basket anyway, and that leads to shooting a lot of free throws," she said. "We are already going to be aggressive on the offensive end. What it will do is make you think how aggressively you want to pay defense. If it gets to a point that every foul you make puts them on the free throw line shooting two, you may have to make some adjustments to the way you play."

Thompson said moving from 20-minute halves to 10-minute quarters might help her team's attention span and willingness to attack offensively.

"We practice in five-minute segments anyway," she said. "I've noticed that when there is less time on the clock that they play harder. If they look up at the clock and see there is less time, maybe that will help them step it up."

There are some changes the coaches find interesting.

"The advancing the ball, I really love that," Porter said. "It gives you a chance to get back into the game and it allows for more strategy."

After a made basket with less than a minute to play in the fourth quarter and any overtime period a coach can use a time out to move the ball from under his/her own basket into the opponent's side of the court. This allows the ensuing offensive play to begin 28 feet from the basket instead of the length of the court.

"I don't like it if I'm the one playing defense, but I guess it would help if you were the team on offense," Thompson said. "It's just according to how you look at it."

"That's a huge change," Andrews said of advancing the ball with a tie out. "It can work for you or against you."

Another change in the rules allows a defender in the post to place a forearm or open palm (as long as the elbow is bent) on the back of an opposing post player who has her back to the goal.

"If you have a stronger post player you may be able to move them around a little bit easier," Andrews said of the additional allowed contact. "We will just have to see how they call it."

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WEEK OF 12/27/15

ECCC to resume season against rival East Mississippi

The East Central Community College basketball team will resume its basketball season on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 5:30 p.m. against rival East Mississippi Community College.

The Lady Warriors enter the contest with a 7-2 record and are coming off a 70-57 win over Delgado Community College on Dec. 14 in their last contest before the Christmas break. The Lady Lions enter the contest with a 6-1 record with their only loss coming to Lawson State Community College in a 74-73 setback.

The Warriors are 5-4 entering the contest after they beat Delgado 81-76. East Mississippi enters the contest with an 8-1 record, their only loss coming to Northeast Mississippi in a 70-68 contest.

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WEEK OF JAN. 4, 2014

EC makes top college list for third straight year

From school reports

For the third straight year, East Central Community College in Decatur is included in the list of Top 50 Fastest Growing Community Colleges in the United States, according to the Dec. 8, issue of Community College Week, a national publication located in Selmer, Tenn.

East Central was ranked 36th in the list of two-year institutions with student enrollments from 2,500 to 4,999.

Information for the report involved enrollment comparisons from 2012 to 2013, when East Central's enrollment grew from 2,494 to 2,572, an increase of 3.1 percent.

ECCC President Billy Stewart said the national recognition highlights the college's continued success in attracting students, especially when compared to other state institutions.

"Although we dropped from 20th last year to 36th on this year's list, we are one of only three community colleges in the state of Mississippi on any list," Stewart said. "It is certainly due to the hard work and efforts of all college employees that we remain on this prestigious list of community colleges in America."

Scholarship established

Brenda K. Johnson of Lawrence, center, longtime sponsor of the ECCC Gospel Choir, received a surprise honor at the talented group's December concert. ECCC Board of Trustees members Delane Hudson, front left, and Jerry Smith, right, announced the establishment of the Brenda K. Johnson Gospel Choir Scholarship at ECCC. Johnson has led the Gospel Choir since 1988. Pictured in back are Randall Lee, vice president for student services, left, and ECCC President Billy Stewart.

EC photo

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Armstrong, Boatner to Represent ECCC at Natchez Literary Festival

Special to The Star

Submitted photo

Jason Armstrong, left, and Jessie Boatner are East Central Community College's representatives for the annual Natchez Literary Festival, scheduled Feb. 26-28.

DECATUR – English instructor Jason Armstrong of Meridian and sophomore Jessie Boatner of Philadelphia will represent East Central Community College at the 25th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

The conference, which has been called by official evaluators "Mississippi's most significant annual conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture, will be held Feb. 26-28 in Natchez.

This year's theme is "Bigger Than Life: Extraordinary Mississippians."

The upcoming celebration recognizes outstanding faculty members and students representing the humanities division of Mississippi's community colleges, four-year colleges and universities. Each honoree is referred to as a William Winter Scholar, in honor of the former Mississippi governor, who has been the Celebration's director of proceedings since it began in 1990.

The event has won numerous awards for its outstanding programming, including a Cultural Olympiad Award, Best Event of the Year Award at the Governor's Conference on Tourism, Mississippi Tourism Award, Mississippi Historical Society's Award of Merit, Mississippi Humanities Council Humanities Achievement Award and 2011 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Prior to joining the East Central family in August 2009, Armstrong served as an adjunct professor of management at Mississippi State University in Meridian, as well as a commercial relationship banker in Meridian, Tupelo and Jackson.

Armstrong is a 2010 graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy, and he was chosen as the HEADWAE Outstanding Faculty Honoree in 2011. In addition to these honors, he has attended the Southeastern School of Commercial Lending at Vanderbilt University and the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

Armstrong graduated with a bachelor's degree from the College of Agriculture (Poultry Science) at Mississippi State University in 1997, was awarded a master's in business administration in 1998, and a master of arts degree in teaching (Community College Education with English emphasis) in 2009.

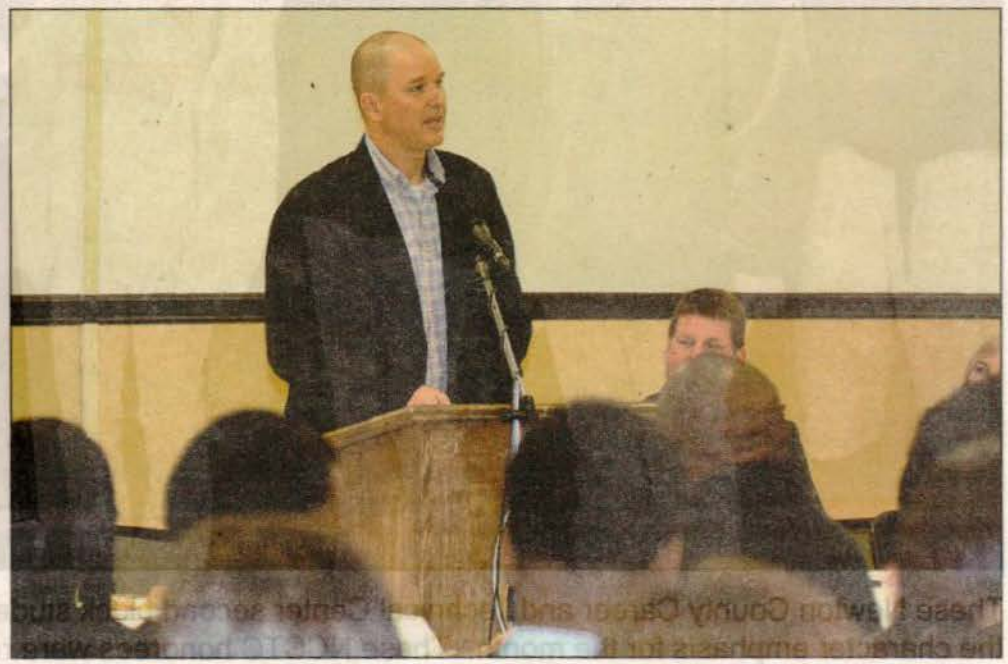
The son of Meridian natives Charlotte and Richard Armstrong, a retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps, Armstrong currently splits time between Meridian and New Orleans, where his girlfriend, Danielle, a former East Central student, is pursuing a master's degree in nursing and certification as a family nurse practitioner at Nicholls State University. He has recently published articles in America's Civil War magazine as well as LEGENDS magazine, in which he interviewed East Central alumnus, Randy Houser.

Boatner is a sophomore English major and the daughter of Chris and Angela Boatner of Philadelphia.

She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, was selected for Who's Who Among American Community/Junior College Students and the Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame. She is also the recipient of the Sara Carr Deaton Business Technology Award.

WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

Reds reliever addresses EC team



Retired major league pitcher Scott Sullivan (pictured above) headlined the annual East Central Community College First Pitch Dinner held Saturday, Jan. 31, on the Decatur campus. From 1996 to 2003, Sullivan was one of the Cincinnati Reds' most durable relief pitchers. During his speech, he related many stories of his major league experiences, including how he pitched to St. Louis Cardinal great Ozzie Smith during his final at-bat prior to retirement. Sullivan also stressed the importance of teammates supporting each other and working together as a team to be successful. The event is held to recognize team members and program supporters in preparation for the new season. Neal Holliman begins his ninth season as head coach and Jake Rowell serves as his assistant.

ECCC's Black History Month program set for Feb. 25

East Central Community College will hold its annual Black History Month program Wednesday, Feb. 25, on the Decatur campus. Activities begin at 7 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium. There is no charge for admission.

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WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

Submitted photo

Dr. Kevin Ennis, left, assistant professor of accounting at Mississippi State University-Meridian visits with Dr. Scott Elliott, president of Meridian Community College, and Dr. Billy Stewart, president of East Central Community College, at the university's annual Community College luncheon held Friday in Kahlmus Auditorium. Each year advisors, instructors and administrators from East Central Community College, East Mississippi Community College, Jones County Junior College and Meridian Community College are invited to the luncheon to learn more about MSU-Meridian and to develop new relationships and strengthen ties between the colleges and the local university.

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WEEK OF January 15, 2015

Community project recognizes clubs, members

Special to The Appeal

DECATUR — The Community Rural Development Project of Newton County recognized its clubs and members for outstanding accomplishments throughout the year during its 64th annual banquet held Dec. 11 in the Gold Room at East Central Community College.

Dinner and door prizes were provided.

The master of ceremonies was Board President Wilmer Whittle and the crowd was entertained by guitarist Chas Evans.

Members from Liberty, Conehatta and Lawrence clubs were in attendance.

Gary McDill was chosen Club Member of the Year and Jimmy Jones was named Citizen of the Year.

Pam Kennedy was awarded first place as secretary for the Liberty Club, Bobbye Cook got second place as secretary for Conehatta Club and Wardene Mason received third place as secretary for the Lawrence Club.

At top: Newton County Rural Development Association officers and directors are, pictured front row from left, Chad Lewis, Jim Ogletree, Kenneth Jones and Mark Buntyn; and back row from left, W. D. McClendon, Wilmer Whittle, Thomas Laird, Joel Nelson, Marcus Herrington and Phil Sutphin. Above: Pictured, from left, are Club Member of the Year winner Gary McDill, Conehatta Club secretary second place winner Bobbye Cook and Citizen of the Year winner Jimmy Jones.

Submitted photos

First place club was awarded to Conehatta Club.

The Community Rural Development program is a part of the Mississippi State University Extension Services. Extension representatives included Katrina McCalphia, Leanne McGee, Susan Cosgrove and Joey Ford. Newton County Funeral Home sponsored the banquet. Newton County Farm Bureau Federation sponsored the awards.

WEEK OF Jan 18, 15

EDUCATION

ECCC announces annual HEADWAE honorees

Chemistry instructor Amy Denson of Decatur, left, and sophomore Lauren Cantey of Collinsville and were recently selected to represent East Central Community College in Decatur at the 2014-15 Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program scheduled Feb. 17 in Jackson. The annual HEADWAE observance was established by the Mississippi Legislature to honor the academically talented students and faculty members from each of the 36 public and private member institutions of the Mississippi Association of Colleges.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Special to The Star

DECATUR – Sophomore Lauren Cantey of Collinsville and chemistry instructor Amy Denson of Decatur have been selected to represent East Central Community College at the 2014-15 Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program scheduled Feb. 17 in Jackson.

The annual HEADWAE observance was established by the Mississippi Legislature to honor the academically talented students and faculty members from each of the 36 public and private member institutions of the Mississippi Association of Colleges. Honorees are invited to the State Capitol where they are welcomed by Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and recognized in each Legislative chamber.

A luncheon is scheduled at the Jackson Marriott Hotel in downtown Jackson, during which each student and faculty honoree is recognized in front of their guests, institution leaders, corporate sponsors and legislators.

In addition to the public recognition, a booklet will be published featuring photos and biographical sketches of each honoree.

Cantey is a sophomore at East Central, where she currently maintains a 4.0 grade point average. Her career goal is to attend medical school and work in pediatric emergency medicine.

A President's List scholar, she is a member of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, and serves as Vice President for Leadership.

Cantey is a 2013 honors graduate of West Lauderdale High School and is the daughter of Michael and Sherri Cantey of Collinsville.

Denson joined the ECCC science faculty in August 2013.

She was previously employed by the Petal School District and served as an adjunct science instructor at Pearl River Community College.

At EC, Denson serves as co-sponsor of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, an organization for pre-medicine majors.

An honors graduate of Petal High School and Jones County Junior College, Denson received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master of science degree from Mississippi State University.

She is the daughter of Donald Denson and Nancy Thorne Denson of Petal.

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WEEK OF MARCH

EC Alumni Board plans spring activities

The East Central Community College Alumni Association Board recently held its spring semester meeting on the Decatur campus. Topics of discussion included the annual MS Community College Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, scheduled Tuesday, April 28, at the Muse Center on the Rankin County campus of Hinds Community College. Former basketball standout Marcus Mann of Carthage will represent ECCC in this year's prestigious group of former standout athletes and coaches. Plans are under way for the 14th Annual Warrior Golf Classic, set for Thursday, June 25 at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club. Activities are also being planned for "Spring Alumni Day," a new event scheduled Saturday, April 11. A complete schedule of activities for the day will be announced at a later date. Seated from left are ECCC staff members Misty Smith, 2014-15 faculty club president, and Teresa Houston, vice president for instruction; Dayna Morgan, Neshoba County representative; Jeanette Thrash of Decatur, Alumni Association president; Ann Burkes of Decatur, Newton County representative; and Stacey Hollingsworth, executive director for Foundation and Alumni Relations. Standing from left are Pete Lucovich of Carthage, Leake County representative; Paul Chamblee, Association secretary; Bruce Lee of Louisville, Winston County representative; Harvey Trapp of Decatur, Newton County representative; Bob Tom Johnson of Forest, Association past president; Randall Lee, ECCC vice president for student services; ECCC President Billy Stewart; and Jerald Everett of Clinton and Bart Gregory of Starkville, both out-of-district representatives. Stewart also addressed the group and provided an update of college events and activities.

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WEEK OF March 15

Arkansas man selected ECCC public information VP

From school reports

DECATUR — Bill Wagnon of Fort Smith, Ark., was recently selected associate vice president for public information at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced ECCC President Billy Stewart.

Prior to beginning his employment earlier this month, Wagnon served as director of marketing and communications for the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, where he was responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive annual marketing plan and supervised staff in the areas of marketing and communications, graphic design, social media, photography and web management.

Wagnon

Stewart is confident Wagnon will serve ECCC and the community well.

"He is very familiar with the College's 2020 Vision and is committed to doing all he can to see our vision become a reality," Stewart said.

In total, Wagnon has 29 years experience in public relations and higher education including similar positions at the University of West Alabama, Birmingham-Southern College, Mississippi State University and the University of Alabama.

Wagnon received the bachelor of arts degree in public relations/journalism from Auburn University.

He completed a master of science in higher education and administration at MSU.

East Central to host 'Spring Alumni Day'

From school reports

East Central Community College in Decatur will host "Spring Alumni Day" Saturday, April 11, on the Decatur campus.

This is a free event beginning at 10 a.m. at Bailey Stadium and will include fun activities for the entire family including a football team scrimmage, alumni soccer games, music, inflatables and wiffle ball for the kids.

A picnic lunch, including a crawfish boil, hamburgers, sausage dogs and other items, will be served at 12:30 p.m. and activities conclude later in the afternoon as the Diamond Warrior baseball team faces Northeast Mississippi Community College in a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m.

For more information contact Stacey Hollingsworth, Executive Director for Foundation and Alumni Relations at 601-635-6327 or e-mail sholling@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF March 1 2015

EC hosts Law Enforcement Day

Randall E. Lee, vice president for student services at East Central Community College, speaks to members of local law enforcement agencies at the Decatur campus for "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day," held recently in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Approximately 35 guests from local Emergency Management Authority offices, police departments, and sheriff's departments attended the luncheon, which was held to thank officials for their assistance, shared resources and expertise in ensuring the safety of ECCC students and employees. Also participating in the event were college president Billy W. Stewart; James Miller, ECCC Dean of Students; and John Harris, ECCC Chief of Police.

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WEEK OF March 1, 2015

Receives EC's Carson award

L.P. Bassett, center, of Philadelphia is the recipient of the inaugural Thomas W. Carson Award at East Central Community College in Decatur. This award was established to honor a retired band director who has served the East Central Community College district with distinction and honor. It is named in memory of longtime ECCC band director Thomas W. Carson who died in 2013 following a lengthy battle with esophageal cancer. To be eligible, recipients must be retired at least five years and have worked at least five years at a school in the ECCC district. Also pictured are Carson's widow, Brenda (left), who serves as the college's financial aid director, and current ECCC band director Hunter Corhern, who presented the award during the 37th annual ECCC District High School Band Clinic.

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New annual, endowed scholarships established at ECCC

Special to The Star

Much-needed financial support will be available for East Central Community College students thanks to alumni and friends who have established various annual and endowed scholarships.

"The ECCC Foundation would like to thank our donors who continue to support the scholarship program," said Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, executive director for Foundation and Alumni Relations. "We also encourage others to establish scholarships and help meet the financial needs of students."

During 2014, the East Central Community College Foundation awarded approximately 126 scholarships valued at more than $94,000.

Among the most recent scholarships established are the Dr. Vernon Clyde & Vashti Muse Endowed Scholarship, Dr. Earl Laird Sr. Scholarship, Derek Pouncey Memorial Scholarship and Friendship Breakfast Club Scholarship, which were approved by the College's Board of Trustees at its February meeting.

Dr. Vernon Clyde Muse has devoted his life to education and has served as president of the Hinds Community College District since 1978.

He began his career at Canton High School as a science teacher and coach. He later served as a high school principal and then became assistant superintendent of education for the Starkville Municipal Separate School District. He also held positions as superintendent of education for both the Meridian Municipal Separate School District and Hinds County Public Schools.

He is a graduate of Sebastopol High School, East Central Junior College, Delta State University and received master's and doctoral degrees from Mississippi State University.

Mrs. Muse also devoted her entire life to education, having served in the Starkville, Hinds County and Lauderdale County school systems prior to joining the Hinds Community College staff in 1980.

She taught full-time at Hinds from 1980 until her retirement in 2002. She devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to the advancement of teaching developmental education and in 2006, the Mississippi Association for Developmental Education named its most prestigious award in her honor.

She received various local and national awards and in April 2010, the Mississippi Legislature presented a joint resolution recognizing Mrs. Muse for her tremendous impact on education in the state of Mississippi.

The Muse Scholarship will be awarded each year to a student who meets the following criteria:

- Must be a full-time East Central Community College student pursuing an Educational Degree program of study (academic or career/technical field) at any location of the ECCC district;
- Must maintain full-time status (enrolled in 15 or more hours per semester and successfully completing a minimum of 12 hours per semester);
- Have a 2.5 or better high school and/or East Central Community College grade point average; and
- Be free of any disciplinary problems.

No part of the endowment corpus will be used for the scholarship award. Scholarship recipients will be selected by the ECCC Scholarship Committee.

The Dr. Earl L. Laird Sr., Scholarship was established to honor the memory of Dr. Laird and his medical service to his fellow man. It will be used to assist those students entering the medical science fields.

Laird was a native of the Rock Branch Community of Newton County. He was a graduate of Union High School and received degrees from the University of Mississippi and Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

He returned to his home in Union and established Laird Hospital in 1938. He was certified in Family Practice, Abdominal Surgery and General Surgery. He served 53 years in the medical profession. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict.

Laird received many honors from his community for his commitment to his profession and his hometown. He was honored with "Dr. Earl Laird Day" in 1975 and as Union's "Outstanding Citizen" in 1983. He served as chairman of the Board of Peoples Bank of Mississippi and was also a successful land owner and cattle farmer.

This two-semester scholarship will be awarded each year to a sophomore student who meets the following criteria:

- Must be a full-time East Central Community College student pursuing a degree in the medical sciences (pre-med, pre-pharmacy, nursing);
- Have graduated from a high school in Newton or Neshoba county;
- Have a 3.5 or better grade point average; and
- Must have financial need.

The recipient will be selected by the ECCC Scholarship Committee.

The Derek Pouncey Memorial Scholarship was established by friends and family of the former ECCC assistant football coach.

A native of Meridian and Lauderdale County, Pouncey was a graduate of West Lauderdale High School and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at Mississippi College. He received his master's degree in school leadership and administration from Mississippi State University.

During his career, he taught at Kate Griffin Junior High, Northwest Junior High, Meridian High School, Philadelphia, Kemper County and West Lauderdale junior and senior high.

He taught courses in speech and debate, theater and English language arts and was the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Coca-Cola Educator of Distinction Award.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a returning ECCC sophomore. Recipients will be selected by the ECCC Scholarship Committee. To be eligible, recipients must:

- Enroll as a full-time student at East Central Community College the fall semester of his/her sophomore year;
- Be an education major;
- Reside in the five-county district served by the college; and
- Have earned a minimum 3.0 grade point average as a freshman student.

The Friendship Breakfast Club Scholarship was established in 2014 by members of the club.

Recipients will be selected by the ECCC Scholarship Committee. To be eligible, recipients must:

- Enroll as a full-time student and remain full-time during the semester the recipient receives the scholarship;
- Reside in Newton County
- Have financial need
- Have good academic standing;
- Be free of any disciplinary problems; and
- Display leadership qualities and good citizenship.

For more information, contact Dr. Hollingsworth at (601) 635-6327 or call toll free, (877) 462-3222, ext. 327. Her e-mail address is sholling@eccc.edu

WEEK OF Feb. 15, 2015

ECCC president praised for workforce training efforts

By Jeff Byrd
jbyrd@themeridianstar.com

Stewart

PHILADELPHIA – East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart was praised Thursday by officials from the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) for his efforts in workplace development.

MEC President and CEO Blake Wilson lauded Stewart during a round table discussion following the MEC's Regional Roundup at the Philadelphia Depot on Thursday.

"The $57 million expansion Weyerhaeuser announced last August has real potential for great economic growth for this

See STEWART on page A2

STEWART from page A1

area and Dr. Billy Stewart should be praised for being pro-active in dealing with Weyerhaeuser and helping them prepare a workforce," Wilson said.

Stewart said workforce development will be a crucial area for the state's community colleges.

"This has great potential for our smaller community colleges like East Central," Stewart said. "The funding has never been there before, but now we're able to do more in help building a work force development program."

Stewart came to the MEC Philadelphia Regional Roundup for updates from Mississippi's government officials, and to see how the East Mississippi region – which includes Newton County, where ECCC is located, and Neshoba County, where Weyerhaeuser announced its expansion plans back in August – can better its economic development.

"The bottom line is we have to explore all areas of economic development," Stewart said. "We're here to meet the needs of our area employers and others who wish to come here. Events like this MEC Roundup are great for the cause."

Like other community college presidents in the state, Stewart said he is hoping the legislature will approve more funding for community colleges as it deals with appropriations next week in Jackson. The state's legislative budget office said it has $88 million in above projected revenues for 2015, and another $112 million in its 2 percent set aside fund.

"We've have had difficulty because of the lack of funding, but we've been able to make do and even add a new program like an electrical line production program which will help an industry like Mississippi Power Company which is building the new plant in Kemper County," Stewart said. "Of course, I would love to see increased funding for our community colleges. It's important for us because we want to meet the needs that are there in our region. I don't like the status quo."

Stewart said he expects the legislature to add at least $5 million in additional funding for community colleges.

"The House last week had an $8 million package and then they took away $3 million and has left us with $5 million," Stewart said. "They still have to work it out with the Senate."

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CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Roadmap for the fut

First year of 2020 Vision proves successful at E

According to Billy W. Stewart, president of East Central Community College in Decatur, the initial year of the college's 2020 Vision is proving successful as the institution continues its desire to be nationally recognized and locally preferred while meeting the educational and training needs of the residents of the college district, which includes Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and Winston counties.

This "roadmap for the future," as Stewart calls it, focuses on five Institutional Commitments: Student Success; Teaching & Learning; Resource Planning and Development; Community Partnerships; and Communication.

"As we recently completed our 86th year of operation, we reflect on the successes of the past year, but also look forward with anticipation to another year of excellence," Stewart said. "We are excited about the potential progress we will make in each of the commitments identified in our 2020 Vision.

"One thing is for sure, we will maintain a long-standing tradition here at East Central offering quality educational opportunities to our communities the 'EC Way — Excellence with Class.'"

Student Success

In the area of Student Success, East Central students have once again been recognized for academic success, according to a recent report from Mississippi's Institutions of Higher Learning.

Results from the IHL report revealed that transfer students from ECCC achieved a 3.22 grade point average, which represents the highest cumulative grade point average of all community college transfers at the state's eight public, four-year institutions.

Lauren Peterson of Forest works on an experiment in the newly renovated Cross Hall chemist pus of East Central Community College.

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

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Newton Appeal _____

The report showed that community college transfer students performed academically as well or better in university courses than students who began their education at the senior institutions. The "native" students earned a 3.09 GPA.

East Central also led the nation in the number of community/junior college student-athletes receiving academic honors for last season, according to the National Junior College Athletic Association.

ECCC academic organizations also represented East Central Community College on the state and national level.

Members of ECCC's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa received numerous awards during annual competition, including being named a Five Star Chapter, and Jacob Oliver of Little Rock was named to the prestigious Order of the Golden Key.

Virginia Easley of Philadelphia was elected state secretary of Phi Beta Lambda, an organization for business students, during the annual convention.

In addition, for the first time ever, all 13 of the college's participants from Theta Chi Chapter placed first at the state conference and advanced to national competition.

Theta Chi was one of only two chapters in the state to receive recognition as a Gold Seal Chapter and Yashica Ickom was selected for Who's Who in PBL.

Stewart said these academic honors reflect the type of success the college strives to achieve each year.

Teaching and Learning

The college also excelled in the areas of Teaching and Learning, including high marks in its annual 'Report Card.'

In the latest Community College Report Card, ECCC ranked above the state averages in numerous categories. In the crucial category of Student Success, ECCC excelled in the area of overall graduation percentages, particularly among pre-baccalaureate and technical students. Also evident is ECCC's top tier performance in preparing students to transfer to four-year institutions. In the overall summary measurement of student success, ECCC exceeded the state average.

In workforce training activities, the data reveals ECCC as a leader in the number of individuals served and industry credentials awarded.

In addition, ECCC continues to display a commitment to outreach and excellence in the awarding of GED diplomas, again ranking in the upper half of the state.

ECCC also announced a new partnership in Culinary Arts with Mississippi University for Women this past year, making a "seamless" transition available for students continuing their studies toward a bachelor's degree on the Columbus campus.

For the third consecutive year, East Central has been designated as a Military Friendly School by Victory Media, the leader in successfully connecting the military and civilian worlds.

The college also instituted a new Cultural Arts Series, which will bring performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community.

Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships are also vital to the college as East Central strives to be engaged with business, industry, education, government and community groups to enrich the learning experiences of students and the community.

Legendary football coach Herman Boone, the inspiration behind the 2000 blockbuster movie "Remember the Titans," and Astronaut Fred Haise, who served as the lunar module pilot during the ill-fated Apollo 13 space mission in 1970 and is portrayed by Bill Paxton in the blockbuster film "Apollo 13," were among national speakers who took part in the college's "An Evening With" series.

East Central also served as a host site for the Medgar Evers exhibit, "This is Home," which detailed the life of one of Mississippi's most prominent civil rights activists, Medgar Wiley Evers.

Students and staff got into the Christmas spirit by hosting the inaugural "Warrior Wonderland" following the Decatur Christmas parade. The special celebration of Christmas included performances by the Wall O' Sound Band. Ac'cents

WEEK OF April 19, 2015

choir, Collegians rock band, Concert Choir and other local entertainers; free photos with Santa; bounce houses and carnival rides; food and drink vendors; a hayride; live Nativity scene; Christmas village display; and various specialty booths set up by campus clubs and organizations.

"This event allows our students opportunities to interact with members of the community and their families who support our college," Stewart said.

Resource Planning and Development

East Central has also made a commitment to Resource Planning and Development and to invest and allocate resources in such a way that benefits students, employees and the college's district.

Working with numerous alumni, individuals, businesses and industries, the ECCC Foundation awarded scholarships valued at more than $94,000 to approximately 126 students during the annual Scholarship Appreciation Program.

The ECCC Alumni Association also netted $9,850 for student scholarships during the 13th annual Warrior Golf Classic. Golfers representing SouthGroup Cox in Carthage claimed the championship trophy.

Improvements/additions were also made to the college's physical plant.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held earlier in the year for the newly renovated Frank M. Cross Hall, which continues to house science classes and a chemistry lab. The approximately $3.7 million project was funded with state bond funds appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature and construction was supervised by the Bureau of Buildings, Grounds and Real Property Management.

The college also unveiled its new synthetic turf football field during the annual "Meet the Warriors" Pep Rally last fall and hosted Super Bowl winning coach and author Tony Dungy during a fundraiser for a new football operations center.

Communication

Finally, East Central has instituted comprehensive Communication strategies and policies to advance visibility of the college and to engage and involve stakeholders.

The college offered for the first time a "One-Stop Shop," making it easier than ever for students to plan their next semester on the Decatur campus.

Representatives from admissions, financial aid and business offices and the counseling staff set up in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria where they met with students to ensure they are clear to advance register for the next semester and to provide advisement on courses if the students need assistance.

Stewart said, "I appreciate the extra effort of all of our staff in making student services, advising, financial aid and the business office easily accessible for our students. I also look forward to enhancing and increasing these types of services to our students. After all, their achievement is the focus of our work at East Central."

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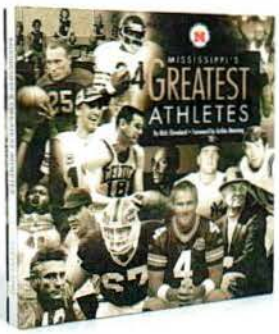
Winston County Journal ✓

WEEK OF June 28, 2015

Mississippi's Greatest Athletics: Hickory's Denver Brackeen

POSTED ON JULY 1, 2015 WITH 1 COMMENT



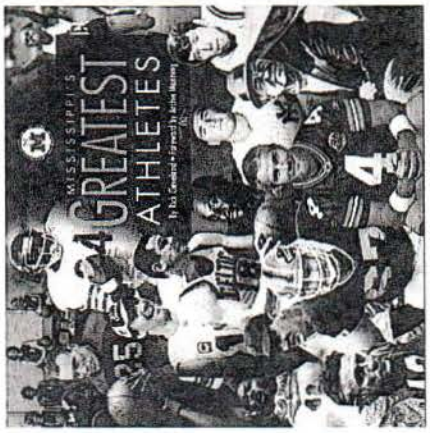
Denver Brackeen of Hickory found fame on the basketball courts of the Southeastern Conference and Mississippi junior colleges. Starring first for East Central Junior College in Decatur and then at Ole Miss, Brackeen earned honors from All-State to All-American.

Denver Brackeen
Photo courtesy of Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame

At East Central, he was named the National Junior College Most Valuable Player in 1952-53 when he averaged a whopping 32 points per game. He was selected as a Junior College All-American that same season. He was All-State twice. Brackeen, the MVP of the Southeastern Conference, was named All-American in basketball at Ole Miss in 1954-55.

He scored 28.1 points per game for the Rebels that season, which placed him as the fifth most prolific scorer in the nation. Brackeen then played professionally with the New York Knickerbockers in 1955-56. But soon he headed back to Mississippi and coached at East Central from 1955-63. Brackeen died in 2006 at the age of 75.

Courtesy of Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum director Rick Cleveland, author of Mississippi's Greatest Athletes. Cleveland can be reached at rcleveland@msfame.com.



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(NOHYtoday.com)

WEEK OF June 28, 2015

9 community colleges to raise tuition this fall

But 6 of state's 15 schools will hold line

Jeff Amy
Associated Press

JACKSON — Nine of Mississippi's 15 community and junior colleges will raise charges on students this fall, with the average price of tuition and fees rising by 4 percent statewide.

On average, a student will pay $2,577 for two semesters of full-time classes, up from $2,476 in the 2014-15 year, according to figures from the state Community College Board.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College will charge the most, $2,992 for two semesters of full-time classes. The Perkinston-based college is raising tuition by 20 percent after four years of basically steady charges, and President Mary Graham said the big bump in tuition was needed to preserve the quality of Mississippi Gulf Coast's offerings.

"The college has historically made the strategic choice to raise tuition in the amount required to sustain exceptional programs once every few years, rather than in small increments every year," Graham said in May, when the increase was announced.

> *"The college has historically made the strategic choice to raise tuition in the amount required to sustain exceptional programs once every few years."*
>
> **MARY GRAHAM,** Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College president

Six colleges aren't raising prices, including Meridian Community College, which will hold steady at $2,314 a year. East Central Community College, which is raising charges by less than 1 percent, will still have the lowest tuition in the state at $2,230 after imposing a $20-a-year increase.

Two-year colleges are getting more state money than they did before the recession. But they still have more students than before the recession, despite four years of falling enrollment as an improving job market cut demand for training.

State funding is rising 4.5 percent in the budget that began July 1. The increase of $11 million in the 2016 budget will push state aid above $260 million, compared to the $216 million that colleges received in 2011. That's still below the level required by state law, which calls on the Legislature to fund community colleges at the midpoint between universities and K-12 schools.

East Central President Billy Stewart described the increase as "very helpful" in holding down tuition.

Statewide, though, tuition continues to rise faster than inflation and personal income growth. The dollar amounts each year are small, only $100 or $200 a year. But over time, price increases have hurt affordability. While community college tuition cost 3.1 percent of median family income in Mississippi in 2000, it cost 5.7 percent in 2013.

Many Mississippi community college students pay less than full tuition through a combination of scholarships and financial aid. In 20 of Mississippi's 82 counties, local governments and private donors pay tuition for recent high school graduates who are not covered by other financial aid. Federal Pell Grants typically cover tuition and books for the poorest students.

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WEEK OF June 28, 2015

Girling receives baton at ECCC

Ed Girling of Carthage was recently named interim director of bands at East Central Community College, announced ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart.

Girling has 33 years of experience as a band director and percussion instructor and has served as assistant band director at East Central since 2010.

He previously led high school bands at Forest, Scott Central, Stringer, Neshoba Central, Manchester Academy, Cleveland, North Sunflower Academy and Yazoo City.

Girling also has experience as a clinic and contest judge and as a band clinician and guest conductor.

He is a music arranger and composer and has served as a percussionist for various music groups.

Girling holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Delta State University.

GIRLING

The college's Wall O' Sound Band performs during football games, parades, concerts and other campus events throughout the year.

The 2016 band is expected to boast more than 175 students and the halftime show is titled "One Hit Wonders."

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF June 21 2015

East Central Community College Police Department

From left, are Scott Reed, William Burton (assistant chief), Margie Bell, Cornelius Parks, James Blackburn and John Harris (chief).

Police Department information

Address East Central Community College, N. 6th Ave., Decatur, MS 39327
Phone: 601-938-5252
Number of employees: 6
Chief: Chief John Harris
Responsibilities: East Central Community College provides a 24-hour certified Police Force for the protection of students, personnel and campus guests, as well as college property. According to James Miller, ECCC dean of students, the chief functions of the department are "to maintain order on the campus, prevent vandalism, and to help assure that a safe campus environment exists." Other responsibilities include traffic control, securing all campus buildings, enforcing campus rules and regulations relating to student discipline and assisting campus guests.

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WEEK OF June 21, 2015

Partnership Provides Retention Boost for Mississippi Community College's Online Courses

EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

by Krista M. LeBrun, Ph.D, Dean of eLearning Education, East Central Community College

"What if you could increase your student retention by five percentage points?" asked Kim Munzo, president and chief executive officer of AspirEDU. I was immediately skeptical. Much research has been conducted on retention and attrition in online courses, we must consider many variables when we try to determine the reasons students don't complete.

As president of the 15-member Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) consortium, we knew retention and student success had to be key parts of the consortium's new five-year strategic plan. As dean of eLearning education at East Central Community College (ECCC), student success is an institutional commitment in the 2020 strategic plan ECCC adopted in 2013.

Munzo's question piqued our interest. Could she really help us increase student retention? How could we ensure students were successful in their online courses if we retained them?

With 2020 vision in mind, ECCC and the MSVCC, moved forward with a pilot to integrate AspirEDU's DropOut Detective and Link-Systems' NetTutor into our online courses. DropOut Detective identifies at-risk students, and recommends they take online tutoring through NetTutor at no cost to the student. Both products integrate with Canvas, our learning management system, for a seamless user experience. Identified at-risk students receive online tutoring in a variety of subjects from the convenience of their home or office from highly-qualified, current or retired instructors who have a master's or doctorate degree.

The results of this pilot have been overwhelming and have led to a long-term partnership among MSVCC, AspirEDU, and NetTutor. Since we implemented this model in the 2013-14 and incorporated other initiatives, such as course templating and redesigned our online professional development, ECCC has realized pass rate increases for its 15-week and eight-week online courses, from 5.2 to 32 percent, and withdrawal rate decreases from 6.5 to 54 percent.

A year into our partnership, it is evident that Munzo and the AspirEDU team and Link-Systems share the same passion for student success as we do at ECCC. These types of partnerships are crucial in higher education, especially for small colleges with limited resources. This new venture is having a major impact on student success as we move forward to achieve the strategic vision of the MSVCC and ECCC's 2020 Vision.

APPEARED IN:

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MERIDIAN STAR _____

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www.icnetwork.org

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF June 21, 2015

Second registration session planned at EC

From school reports

New and transfer students planning to attend 2015 fall classes at East Central Community College are encouraged to attend one of two remaining registration sessions scheduled this summer on the Decatur campus.

The two sessions will be held Thursday, July 9, and Friday, Aug. 14, announced. Randall Lee, vice president for student services.

"We encourage students to attend the earliest session possible in order to get the classes they want for the fall semester," Lee said.

Prior to attending registration, students should have on file in the Office of Admissions a completed ECCC Application for Admission (available online at www.eccc.edu); ACT or COMPASS scores, which will be used for placement in English and mathematics courses; and high school/college transcripts. Transfer students must have all college transcripts on file before they can register.

"As in years past, students may arrive anytime between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. to register," Lee said. "Students who have completed the admissions process and have been accepted for admission should have received a letter in the mail instructing them how to proceed on the day of registration. Students who have not completed the application process are welcome to attend if they have the ACT or COMPASS score report and transcripts turned in and will begin the process in the Eddie M. Smith Student Union on the west side of campus."

On the day of registration, students will complete their fall class schedules, have photos made for identification badges and the college yearbook, apply for a parking decal and complete the online orientation.

Students who have not taken either the ACT or COMPASS test should be prepared to take it at 8:30 a.m. on the day of registration. The cost is $20.

Lee added, "A complimentary meal will be served from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria for students and parents."

Fall classes begin Monday, August 17.

For more information, contact Student Services at 601-635-6205 or email rlee@eccc.edu"rlee@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

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WEEK OF _____

East Central Pageant selected as the Outstanding Pageant of the Year

DECATUR - The Mississippi Association of Pageant Judges selected East Central Community College's Beauty and Beau Pageant as Outstanding Pageant of the Year recently. Each year, the association presents an award for an outstanding pageant that recognizes excellence in the pageant industry. The award was presented to Maria McLeod, co-chairman of the ECCC pageant, during the organization's annual awards' banquet.

The Mississippi Association of Pageant Judges Board made selection of this award. The pageant was judged and nominated by a member of a panel of judges selected from the Mississippi Association of Pageant Judges membership who feel the pageant is excellent in areas of organization, contestants' knowledge of competition expectations, knowledgeable and rehearsed masters of ceremony, attention to detail in decoration, programs, admission, score sheet and tabulation structure and contestant flow, etc.

"For East Central to be recognized by such a distinguished group as the Mississippi Association of Pageant Judges is quite an honor especially considering the number of pageants throughout the state with which they are involved each year," McLeod said.

Shirley agreed with McLeod and said she was exceptionally excited to receive the news that the pageant had been chosen for such a prestigious honor.

"There is a lot of work, behind-the-scenes prior to the pageant actually takes place that is key to the success of the event," Shirley said. "We are fortunate to have a good group of people working together to host a top-notch production."

The ECCC Pageant Committee members include co-chairmen McLeod and Shirley, Bill Wagnon, Ronald Westbrook, John Everett, Ed Girling, Gennie Taylor, Deanna Rush, Daniele Brock, Amanda Walton, Carla Jacome-Cluff, Barry Karrh, Stacey Pollock, Kristie Pilgrim and Mae Thornton.

Submitted photo

East Central Community College Most Beautiful and Most Handsome Pageant co-chairmen Maria McLeod, left, and LeAnne Shirley are pictured with the Outstanding Pageant of the Year Award presented by the Mississippi Association of Pageant Judges Board.

Pageant of the Year

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF May 24, 2015

Stewart awards diplomas

EC President Billy Stewart hands a diploma to Macken'z Nell Smith, a former graduate of Newton County High School.

EC photo

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF May 24, 2015

Mrs. Lucille Wood

Longtime East Central Community College instructor Lucille Wood died early Monday morning, May 18th, in the Neshoba County Nursing Home in Philadelphia. She was 84.

A celebration of her life was held at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 21, 2015, at Porter Funeral Home, with Rev. Chris Vowell officiating. Interment was in Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Noxapater, MS. Lucille was born January 10, 1931, in Winston County. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church. She is survived by one brother, Jim Wood of Louisville; nephews, Jim (Deborah) Duncan, James (Renee) Wood, Jr., and Scot Wood; great nieces and nephews, Brandi (Josh) Duncan Herrington, Greg Duncan, and Megan Wood; and one great great nephew, Parker Herrington.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edna Myres Wood and George Wood; three sisters, Lorene Wood, Zelma Earline Wood, and Ester Wood Duncan; and one brother, Walter C. Wood.

Pallbeearers included James Wood, Jr, Bubba Hudspeth, Mark McCool, Scott Hill, Josh Herrington, Ronnie Mitchell, and Greg Duncan.

"When people think of East Central Community College, many immediately think of Lucille Wood," said ECCC President Dr. our college and she will be greatly missed."

Wood, who also served as chairman of the social science, business and education division at ECCC, is recognized as a pioneer in Mississippi community college women's athletics, and until her retirement in 2011 was the longest-tenured faculty member among the Mississippi community college ranks.

She served three years as an activity and recreation instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, before being hired by then-East Central Community College president Arno Vincent in 1956.

Wood was honored for her classroom teaching on various occasions, having been selected Outstanding Academic Instructor by the ECCC Alumni Association; HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working Toward Academic Excellence) Instructor of the Year, an honored conferred by the Mississippi Legislature; and a Lamplighter honoree, which each year recognizes outstanding community college educators.

ing (rhythmic jumping between poles) and jump rope exercises.

Wood was also instrumental in organizing the first Alumni Memorial Awards, which were the beginning of the current Awards Day program held each spring to recognize outstanding students. She also instituted the singing of the Alma Mater at the conclusion of the program.

In addition to her outstanding service as a faculty member, Wood also served twice as president of the Alumni Association, and during her second term was responsible for instituting the Alumnus of the Year Award.

She spearheaded the effort to restore Sullivan Park, an area adjacent to Newsome Hall dormitory and named in honor of Mrs. Janie Huff Sullivan, one of Wood's teachers at then East Central Junior College.

She also created and organized the college's Memorabilia Room, which was completed in 2005. Located in Burton Library, the room houses various items of historical significance to East Central and its alumni. Wood, along with former librarians Gloria Johnson and Gail Wood, led efforts for the creation and completion of the special area. 1974. Wood, with the assistance of former librarian Ann Burkes and her husband, the late Roger Burkes, collected information and photographs on past players and championship teams.

Wood was also called on to speak at various programs throughout her tenure at ECCC, including the college's 75th anniversary in 2003. She was also a featured speaker at the dedication of Burton Library and the Walter Arno Vincent Administration Building.

She was a 2003 Mississippi Women's Conference Power of One honoree and in 2004 was selected as an "Ageless Hero" state award winner in the Love of Learning category by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi. She was also the recipient of the Delta Kappa Gamma Red Rose award and an honorary member of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for the two-year college.

But, perhaps Lucille Wood was best recognized for her accomplishments in and contributions to women's athletics in Mississippi's junior colleges.

After playing basketball at Louisville High School and ECJC, Wood volunteered to coach women's basketball during her years at

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

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Newton Appeal ✓

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal ✓

Other Publications _____

of girls, led by the late) Sue Gunter (longtime women's basketball coach at Louisiana State University and NCAA Hall of Fame inductee), wanted to play competitive basketball," Wood said during an interview prior to her retirement.

"Mr. Vincent gave approval for us to play and we scheduled about 10 games. Sue, who later excelled as a senior college player and coach, always gave credit to East Central for 'jump-starting' her career. I have to give credit to Mr. Vincent for allowing all those girls who were members of our 'Club Teams' to follow their dreams and for allowing me to follow my dream of being a coach," Wood said.

Wood led those "Club Teams" through the 1974-75 season, capturing state titles in 1970 and 1973. Following the MJCAA's recognition of women's basketball as an official sport in 1975-76, Wood's teams won state titles in 1976 and 1979.

The 1973 championship was won with a basketball borrowed from Neshoba Central High School because ECCC didn't have an official basketball for women at that time.

During this period, Wood also helped bring about the Title IX ruling, which provides equal opportunities for women. Through her efforts, the foundation for women's basketball was laid in 1975, and a number of scholarships were awarded to female athletes.

That same year, she was elected the first president of the Women's Basketball Association of Mississippi. She was also among the first coaches selected to lead a Mississippi junior college All-Star team. She was honored as Mississippi Association of Coaches 1978-79 "Coach of the Year" and was also recognized that same year tional Junior College "Coaches of the Year."

In addition to her accolades as a basketball coach, Wood also led the ECJC volleyball "Club Team" to the 1970 state title, and from 1957 to 1976 she coached men and women's tennis teams. Five of her tennis players won state championships.

After retiring from coaching in 1986, Wood continued her interest in women's athletics by serving in various capacities. She completed a 10-year tenure as Region 23 Director of Women's Athletics and was presented the National Junior College Athletic Association Service Award in 1990.

She was inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986 and in 1988 was honored by having the ECCC physical education building (Bracken-Wood Physical Education Building) named for her and All-American basketball player Denver Brackeen, who she also coached with at East Central.

In 2004 and 2007, she was inducted into the NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Sports Hall of Fame, respectively.

Wanda McPhail, tennis coach at Meridian Community College and a former student of Ms. Wood, said, "I played basketball and tennis under Ms. Wood from 1969-1971 and while she taught me so much about the games, she taught many life lessons as well. She was always honest and fair and had the best interest of her athletes and students at heart. She has touched many lives. The chain continues as so many of us who played for her chose the coaching profession because of the influence that she had on our lives."

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Newton Appeal ✓

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal ✓

Other Publications _____

Billy Stewart. "She was a remarkable representative of our college and truly embodied the spirit and excellence that is East Central. She made a tremendous impact on women's athletics in Mississippi's community colleges and touched thousands of students' as well as athletes' lives during her more than five decades of service to

Throughout her five decades at East Central, Wood also served as cheerleader sponsor, director of intramurals, organized and supervised a college-wide talent show, supervised the May Day programs, and initiated halftime programs at basketball games, where her physical education classes demonstrated their class activities such as ribbon dancing, tinsel-

She helped raise funds and/or donated funds for trophy cases to house Athletic Hall of Fame inductee plaques, photos and frames for All-State athletes, flags for Burton Library and banners for her women's basketball championship teams.

She was instrumental in the collection of athletic memorabilia that is housed in the trophy cases and on the walls in the college gym, having researched information on former All-State and All-American players from the years 1928 to

Co-Lin, but the job was given to someone else.

Being turned down for the coaching job might have been the best thing to happen for women's athletics, as it laid the foundation for Wood's ideas concerning opportunities for girls and women in sports and coaching.

"Many people probably do not know that from 1954 until 1975, the Mississippi Junior College Athletic Association (MJCAA) did not recognize women's basketball as a sport. My second year at East Central (1957), a group

WEEK OF May 24, 2015

East Central CC expanding online offerings

EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reported by: Mel Carlock

Email: mcarlock@wtva.com

Published: 5/26 10:43 am

Updated: 5/26 11:05 am

DECATUR, Miss. (WTVA) -- The growing enrollment in online cours
community college looking to expand its testing center.

East Central Communicy College's eLearning Education Program r
Community College Innovative Learning and Design Grant Progran

Dr. Krista LeBrun, dean of eLearning Education, says ECCC will us
Education facilities and testing services and for faculty professional

The program will relocate to a larger facility to accomodate increased online enrollment, including more space for faculty and staf

It will also include a testing center with 29 testing desks with computers.

ECCC, which serve's five counties including Winston County, currently services about 5,000 online test and proctored exams eac

MSVCC is a consortium of Mississippi's 15 community colleges that makes it possible for these colleges to leverage their distanc
services, and technology.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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WTVA.com ✓

WEEK OF May 24, 2015

ECCC receives $10,000 grant to enhance online learning programs

The East Central Community College eLearning Education Program has received a $10,000 grant through the Mississippi Virtual Community College Innovative Learning and Design Grant Program designed to enhance the experience and success of students enrolled in online learning courses.

Dr. Krista LeBrun, dean of eLearning Education, said that ECCC will use the grant to expand the college's eLearning Education facilities and testing services and for faculty professional development.

"East Central Community College has seen a significant growth in online enrollment in the past decade, which has resulted in an immediate need to expand our testing services and facilities, and this grant will help us achieve the first phase of a three-phase process," said LeBrun.

ECCC's eLearning Education Program will move to a larger physical location in fall 2015 to better accommodate the increasing online enrollment. The new location will include expanded office and lounge space to allow faculty and staff to better serve students and a testing center that accommodates 29 testing carrels and proctoring computers to replace the 14 testing stations available in the current location.

LeBrun said that ECCC currently services about 5,000 online testing and proctored examinations each semester.

"Doubling the capacity of our testing center will give us a facility that is comparable to national standards and ensures academic integrity and reliable proctoring services using the most state-of-the-art technology," she said.

The expanded testing center will allow for future implementation of non-traditional services for peak, night, and weekend testing, as well as be ADA compliant.

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WEEK OF May 17, 2015

College, Decatur dedicate projects

East Central Community College and the Town of Decatur officially dedicated the completion of paving, sidewalk, and lighting projects with a joint ribbon-cutting on West Broad Street in front of the campus May 12. Helping cut the ribbon are, pictured from left, Decatur Alderman Mark Buntyn, ECCC Board of Trustees Chairman Jimmy Hollingsworth, ECCC President Billy Stewart, Mississippi Department of Transportation Central Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall, Decatur Mayor Pat O'Neill, State Rep. Randy Rushing (District 78), and ECCC Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Jerry Smith. The projects were made possible by Surface Transportation Program and Transportation Alternatives Program grant funding provided through the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Submitted photo

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WEEK OF May 17, 2015

EAST CENTRAL

Community college scores high on annual 'report card'

From staff reports

DECATUR — East Central Community College's latest report card shows continued high marks in student success, retention and other measures.

In accordance with Mississippi House Bill No. 1071 from the 2010 legislative session, ECCC has released its 2013 Community College Performance Profile, or report card. The bill created an Education Achievement Council which was established to set education achievement goals for institutions of higher learning and community and junior colleges in the state and to assist in monitoring progress towards those goals through the preparation of annual institutional and state report cards.

"The 2013 Report Card documents that ECCC is continuing to do many things well as we fulfill our 2020 Vision strategic plan," said ECCC President Billy Stewart. "We are very proud of that and look to strengthen

See East Central, 7A

East Central

From 1A

those aspects of our vision and mission that rank above the state average."

The Community College Report Card, designed to reflect the unique mission of community colleges, incorporates measures closely aligned with the Voluntary Framework of Accountability developed by the American Association of Community Colleges. Therefore, each report card includes information for the specific community/junior college, along with corresponding figures for the state system, which includes all 15 Mississippi community/junior colleges. Information contained in the report includes student enrollment, degrees awarded, student success, student retention, student progress, workforce development information, and GED and adult basic education statistics, as well as enrollment and success in remedial coursework (college readiness).

In the 2013 Community College Report Card, ECCC compared well against state averages in numerous categories. In the crucial category of Student Success, ECCC excelled in the area of overall graduation rates, particularly among pre-baccalaureate and technical students. Also evident is ECCC's top-tier performance in preparing students to transfer to four-year institutions. In the overall summary measurement of student success, ECCC achieved elite status.

Another category of excellent comparative strength for ECCC within credit programs was overall student retention (freshman students progressing in enrollment to the next year), particularly in pre-baccalaureate programs.

In workforce training activities, the data reveals ECCC continued to be a leader in the number of individuals served, and ranked in the top third in the state in the number of individuals experiencing increases in wages subsequent to training.

In addition, ECCC continued to display a commitment to outreach and excellence in the awarding of GEDs, placing among the state's very best in the number of GEDs awarded.

Stewart noted, however, that the report card identified areas of improvement for the college. "We look forward to working with faculty, staff, and students to improve in those areas as ECCC strives to become nationally recognized and locally preferred," he said. "The overall results of the Report Card demonstrate that ECCC is making progress in many areas that enable our students to experience an excellent postsecondary education right here at home."

The 2013 Performance Profile (Report Card) for ECCC can be found on the college's website at www.eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF May 17, 2015

Vests donated to ECCC campus police

Jim Armstrong, second from right, director of governmental affairs for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, and State Rep. Randy Rushing of Decatur, second from left, present bullet-proof vests to the East Central Community College Campus Police Department. The Mississippi Department of Public Safety recently donated 15 bullet-proof vests to ECCC Campus Police, thanks in part to the efforts of Rushing, who represents Mississippi's District 78 of Neshoba, Newton, and Scott counties. Shown receiving the vests for ECCC are, from left, Randall Lee, vice president for student services; Cornelius Parks, campus police officer; John Harris, campus police chief; and James Miller, dean of students.

EC photo

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WEEK OF May 17, 2015

East Central CC schedules three sign-up sessions

New and transfer students planning to attend 2015 fall classes at East Central Community College may attend one of three registration sessions this summer in Decatur.

Sessions will be held Saturday, June 6; Thursday, July 9; and Friday, Aug. 14, announced Dr. Randall Lee, vice president for student services.

Prior to registration, students should have on file in the Office of Admissions completed ECCC applications for admission, available online at www.eccc.edu, ACT or COMPASS scores for placement in English and mathematics courses, and high school/college transcripts.

Transfer students must have all college transcripts on file before they register.

Students may arrive anytime between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. to register.

Students who have completed the admissions process and have been accepted for admission should have received letters instructing them how to proceed the day of registration.

Students who have not completed the process may attend if they have ACT or COMPASS score reports and transcripts turned in. They will begin the process in the Eddie M. Smith Student Union on the west side of campus."

At registration students will complete fall class schedules, have photos made for identification badges and the college yearbook, apply for a parking decal and complete online orientation.

Students who have not taken either the ACT or COMPASS tests should be prepared to test at 8:30 a.m. registration day. The cost is $20.

A complimentary meal will be served from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria for students and parents.

Fall classes begin Monday, Aug. 17. For more information telephone 601-635-6205 or email rlee@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF May 10, 2015

ECCC retirees

East Central Community College in Decatur honored four retirees during its annual end-of-the-year luncheon held Friday, May 8, 2015, in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on campus. Pictured are (from left) Bubby Johnston of Forest (vice president for public information), who retired after 28 years of service; Joe Barrett of Decatur (workforce development coordinator), who retired after 10 years; Robin Fulton of Louisville (mathematics instructor), who retired after six years; and Debbie Gordon of Louisville (computer science instructor), who retired after 11 years. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF May 3, 2015

Washington to direct Centralettes

Melonie Washington of Philadelphia was recently selected coordinator for the East Central Community College Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall 'O Sound Marching Band, announced Vicki Blaylock, Fine Arts Division chair for the college.

"We are excited to have Melonie Washington as our Centralette Coordinator at East Central," Blaylock said.

"Melonie not only was a Centralette herself but brings new and exciting ideas to our dance team."

Washington serves as special education teacher and is the former cheer coach at Neshoba Central High School (NCHS) in Philadelphia.

She is also a former Centralette, receiving her Associate of Arts degree from ECCC in 2002. She was named ECCC's Homecoming Queen in 2001. Washington earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies from Mississippi State University in 2006.

She was named National Federation of High Schools Spirit Coach of the Year for Mississippi in 2014.

Washington's NCHS cheer squads earned the Mississippi High School Activities Association varsity small division state cheer championship in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014.

She received the award of excellence from the Neshoba County School District in 2013 and 2014.

Melonie Washington

Washington is married to Mangold Washington III and they have two daughters, Marlee, 8, and Isley, 2. She is the daughter of Houston and Martha Moore of Philadelphia.

Washington is a member of Mount Ary Church in Philadelphia.

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WEEK OF May 3, 2015

Administrative professionals honored at EC

These East Central Community College staff members were honored for years of service at the Administrative Professionals Week Appreciation Luncheon held April 21. Pictured, from left, are Brenda Cheatham of Philadelphia, Lynn French of Lake, and Monica Rigdon of Little Rock, each recognized for 10 years of service to the college; Vivian Taylor of Newton, honored for 15 years of service; and Martha Sibley of Newton, Virgie Thames of Louin, and Carole Germany of Union, recognized for 20 years of service. Cheatham is an administrative assistant in student services, French is a business office clerk in accounts payable, Ridgon is an administrative assistant in healthcare education, Taylor is an administrative assistant in the library, Sibley is an administrative assistant in admissions and records, Thames is an administrative assistant at the Small Business Development Center and Germany is an administrative assistant in the president's office.

EC photo

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WEEK OF May 2, 2015

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

EC, Decatur officials to dedicate Broad Street projects May 12

From staff reports

DECATUR — Officials from East Central Community College and the Town of Decatur will participate in a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony May 12 to officially dedicate the completion of paving, sidewalk, and lighting projects.

The ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. on the front lawn of the college's Richard C. Ethridge Hall.

The public is invited.

The projects were made possible by Surface Transportation Program and Transportation Alternatives Program grant funding provided through the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

ECCC President Billy Stewart said, "We are grateful to our state legislative delegation, Central Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall and the many others who provided assistance in securing these grant funds.

"The improvements to our campus and town are not only aesthetically pleasing, but most importantly, this area is now much safer for our students and the community."

Participating in the program will be Hall, Stewart, Rep. Randy Rushing, Decatur Mayor Pat O'Neill and Alderman Mark Buntyn, and EC trustees Jimmy Hollingsworth and Jerry Smith.

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WEEK OF April 19, 2015

ECCC Hosts Student Art Exhibit; Opening Reception Scheduled April 23

The East Central Community College Art Department will host its annual Student Art Exhibition Monday, April 20 through Friday, May 1 in the Vickers Fine Arts Center on the Decatur campus.

The exhibit will feature drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture and designs produced by EC students during the 2014-2015 college term.

An opening reception, including refreshments provided by the college's Culinary Arts Department, will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 23 in the lobby of the Vickers Fine Arts Center. There is no charge for admission and the public is invited.

Students featured in the exhibit and their respective hometowns include Bristol Buffington, Starkville; Shawna Bush, Lawrence; D.J. Creekmore, Philadelphia; Kelly Dixon, Carthage; Deyanna Ingram, Louisville; Katherine Kelley, Brandon; Jessica Loper, Union; Kayley Pennington, Pelahatchie; Clay Summers-Jones, Walnu Grove; and Rebecca Tero and Courtney Tillman, both o Decatur.

Chris Brady serves as art instructor.

Shown cutting the ribbon to officially open East Central Community College's new Golf Course during ceremonies April 20 are (from left) Workforce Education instru Chris Ryals and Luke Howell, ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart, Student Body Ass tion President Leah Ferguson, Director of Housing and Student Activities Kristi S and Vice President for Student Services Dr. Randall Lee.

ECCC Officially Opens New Disc Golf Cou

East Central Community College officially opened a new Disc Golf Course during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held Monday, April 20, on the Decatur campus.

The challenging nine-hole course, which wraps around the college lake, is open to the public.

ECCC Workforce Education instructors Luke Howell and Chris Ryals, who designed the course, concluded the ceremony by providing information and a demonstration on how to play the game.

Members of the Student Body Association first approached College President Dr. Billy Stewart with the idea for the new recreation venue, which he says is another step towards meeting the goals of the college's 2020 Vision.

"We feel providing this venue will assist us in our efforts to faci student success by exp ing opportunities for ticipation in student a ties and other program promote campus inv ment and personal dev ment," Dr. Stewart sa

For more info tion, contact Student vices at 601-636-62 email rlee@eccc.edu.

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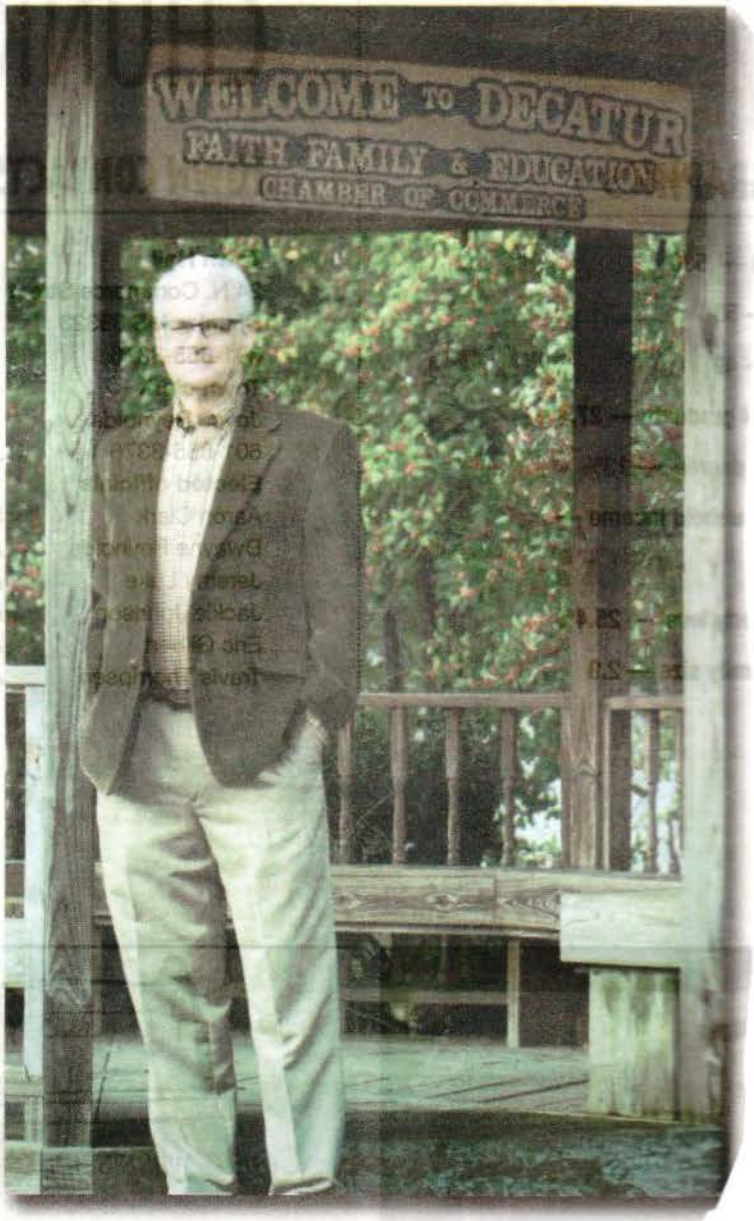
Unsung Hero of the Year:

Editor's note: We asked the community leaders to nominate individuals who have done much to improve Newton County, but rarely get recognized for it.

From those nominations, we chose the second annual Appeal Unsung Hero of the Year, Phil Sutphin, a retired educator with more than 40 years of service in Mississippi, Tennessee and West Virginia.

It's our hope that this annual recognition will show Newton County just how special these individuals — and their contributions — are.



By Donna Campbell
dharris@newtoncountyappeal.com

There's a joke that follows Phil Sutphin around Decatur.

As an educator with a doctorate hanging on his wall, Sutphin, the former president of East Central Community College, is known around town as "Dr. Phil."

The other Dr. Phil is Phil McGraw, a famous television psychologist who solves guests' problems.

"We have a good joke going around about that," he said. "My usual response is, I don't charge as much or make as much."

But like his counterpart, Sutphin is known for fixing problems and helping others.

"I always like to help folks, to be as helpful as possible," he said.

Sutphin is chairman of the Decatur zoning board and president of the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce. He's a member of the Decatur Lions Club and serves on the board at Laird Hospital in Union.

He serves on several boards for his church, Decatur United Methodist, both locally and statewide. He also sings in the choir.

He's not one to boast about his involvement behind the scenes or to talk about financial contributions to worthy causes. He does what he does because it's the right thing to do.

It's never about the glory, said Mayor Pat O'Neill, who attends church with Sutphin and his wife, the former Peggy Boyd.

"He's doing it for the betterment of the community," O'Neill said. "His heart is in the right place."

Sutphin was born in Blue Mountain, where his father, the Rev. Felix A. Sutphin, was a longtime president of Wood College in Mathiston.

ployed as well.

He also worked at Concord College in West Virginia. It all prepared him for a career back in Mississippi.

He joined the staff of ECCC under the leadership of Eddie M. Smith, serving as dean of students to dean of instruction.

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CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of April 19, 2015

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal ✓

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

Phil Sutphin

After Sutphin graduated from Wood College and Mississippi State, he began teaching social studies at Meridian High School.

He left Meridian to pursue a doctorate at Memphis State University, where he was em-

"We want to show the businesses in the community we appreciate what they do," he said.

He'd like to see membership in the Chamber increase, which can lead to more involvement by others in the town.

What's good for Decatur is also good for Newton County.

"With the many things Decatur and Newton County have to offer, this could really become an attractive bedroom community," he said.

As dean of instruction, he was tasked by Smith with creating a nursing program at the college. A building was constructed and the program received accreditation. About 100 students a year graduate from the college's various medical programs, with classes held in the Phil A. Sutphin Associate Degree Nursing Child Development Technology Building.

When Smith retired in 2000, Sutphin stepped into the president's role.

After a dozen years running the college, he retired to start working on his bucket list with Peggy, who'd also retired from teaching.

First up was traveling.

"We never went anywhere when we were working," he said.

Their first stop discovering the world was a cruise along the Alaskan coast. "That was our first bucket list," he said.

They cruised the Mediterranean for a month, visiting Italy, Spain and Turkey.

They also spent a month cruising around Norway.

They're planning a trip to the Netherlands soon and Canada in the fall.

He'd like to also visit Australia, New Zealand and possibly Thailand, where the Sutphins' have family.

Sutphin also cares for his father, who is in J.G. Alexander Nursing Home in Union.

The Sutphins consider Decatur home. They raised two sons there — Brad, an employee of Valley Services Inc. in Decatur and Brent, an employee of the University of Southern Mississippi in the IT Department.

Sutphin stays active in the community because it's the right thing to do, he said.

He agreed to serve as president of the Chamber for one year, but was easily talked into a second term. They voted him in when he missed a meeting, he said with a grin.

In his first run as Chamber president, he initiated a Business of the Month award for local merchants. The 12 winners are eligible for the Business of the Year award, which is determined by secret ballot voting by attendees to the annual Chamber banquet held in February.

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of April 12, 2015

Carthaginian _____

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Meridian Star ✓

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

Cheryl Owens / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy W. Stewart met with the Newton County Board of Supervisors Thursday to discuss plans to build a new dormitory at ECCC.

L.M. "Bubba" Bonds said he appreciates the way Stewart has handled the business of the college.

"As long as you are taking care of the taxpayers money I don't have a problem and I don't think anyone else on the board does either," Bonds said.

WEEK OF April 12, 2015

ECCC to build women's dorm

By Cheryl Owens
cowens@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — Plans are in the works for construction of a new women's dormitory at East Central Community College.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart said although a location for the dormitory has not yet been decided, it will probably be built across from Barbara Hall and will have between 120 to 150 rooms to rent out to female students.

Stewart said ECCC is one of three colleges in the state with a 100 percent dormitory occupancy rate.

"In June of last year for the fall semester we had 162 females and 113 males on the waiting list to get into a dorm room," Stewart told members of the Newton County Board of Supervisors Thursday. "We have parents calling wanting to get their kids in the dorms. We want to meet the needs of our students by building a new dorm."

Stewart said while there is no definite timeframe for construction of the dormitory, hopes are to begin work in the near future.

Stewart told supervisors plans are to pay off the balance of two loans, including a $480,000 loan on Barbara Hall, the latter of which would save Newton County taxpayers an addi-

See DORM on page A2

DORM from page A1

tional $256,000 in interest if the loan is paid off early.

"As one loan falls off the books we anticipate one coming on to build the new dorm," Stewart said. "We have two sources of debt at the college right now and we believe we can pay both of them off, including Barbara Hall, this year."

Stewart said the college would share some of the responsibility of repaying the loan for the new dormitory.

"We are willing to pledge some of the revenue that comes in from rental," Stewart said. "If we had a $360,000 annual payment right now, we would get roughly $228,000 from the county so if we put in about $140,000 for a 25 year loan at 3.75 percent we could borrow roughly $5.7 million dollars to build a dorm."

Newton County Board of Supervisors President

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ECCC offers class options for summer

East Central Community College will offer summer classes, including a three-week intersession term, June and July day and evening terms, online courses and classes at off-campus locations.

The three-week intercession term begins the summer class schedule. The three-week intersession will run May 11-28.

Course offerings include General Biology I and Lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab, Microbiology and Lab, Intermediate English,

English Composition I, English Composition II, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Public Speaking I, Theater Appreciation and Child Health and Safety.

June term

The first four-week summer term runs June 1-29 in Decatur. Classes are held Monday through Thursday.

Offerings include General Biology I and Lab, General Biology II and Lab, Nutrition, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab,

General Chemistry I and Lab, English Composition I, English Composition II, American (U.S.) History I, American History II, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra,

Spanish I, Spanish II, Music Appreciation, Public Speaking I, Theater Appreciation, Administration of Preschool Programs, Residential-Light Commercial Wiring,

Switching Circuits for Residential, Commercial and Industrial Application, College Study Skills, General Psychology, Introduction to Sociology and Social Problems.

June evenings

June term evening class schedules in Decatur run June 1-29.

Evening courses include English Composition I, Western Civilization I, Intermediate Algebra, Old Testament Survey, General Psychology and Social Problems.

July term

The second four-week term runs July 1-29, in Decatur.

Courses include General Biology II and Lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab, General Chemistry II and Lab, Methods and Materials,

Commercial and Industrial Wiring, Motor Control Systems, Intermediate English, English Composition I, English Composition II, American (U.S.) History I,

American History II, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, American National Government, General Psychology, Introduction to Sociology and Marriage and Family.

July evenings

July summer evening classes in Decatur run July 1-29.

Courses include English Composition II, American (U.S.) History I, College Algebra, General Psychology and Social Problems.

Off-campus classes

East Central will offer evening classes at locations across the district, including Carthage.

June term offerings at the Leake County Career-Technical Center in Carthage include English Composition I and College Algebra.

June classes run June 1-29.

July term offerings in Carthage include English Composition II, running July 1-29.

Online courses

ECCC also offers summer online courses from June 1 through July 24.

A complete list of summer classes with course codes is available at www.eccc.edu.

For more information, telephone Student Services, 601-635-6205, or visit www.eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF March 22, 2015

ECCC adds new staff

Woodruff Joins ECCC Workforce Staff

Callie Woodruff of Louisville recently joined the Workforce Development Center staff at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced College President Dr. Billy W. Stewart.

She will work specifically as a navigator for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant, which the college was awarded last fall to provide training in information technology, healthcare, energy and advanced manufacturing at the Louisville Career Advancement Center.

Woodruff previously served as an office receptionist for Prairie Opportunity, Inc. under the National Emergency Grant program, and earlier served as an enumerator for National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA).

Her experience also includes stints with several businesses and industries in the Winston County area.

Woodruff received the associate's Degree in 2010 and the bachelor's Degree in 2014, both from the University of Phoenix. She is a 1994 graduate of Louisville High School.

Woodruff

Ward

Ward Joins ECCC Staff

Hannah Ward of Louisville recently joined the Workforce Development Center staff at East Central Community College in Decatur as the Center Operations and Data Coordinator, announced College President Dr. Billy W. Stewart.

She will work specifically with the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant, which the college was awarded last fall to provide training in information technology, healthcare, energy and advanced manufacturing at the Louisville Career Advancement Center.

Ward previously served as a consultant with the Mississippi State Personnel Board, where she collected, submitted and reviewed position and contract action requests; assisted agencies regarding program-related issues; assisted in analyzing budget requests; and conducted on-site agency audits and interviews.

Her experience also includes stints as an administrative assistant, property manager and event planner.

Ward is a 2008 graduate of Mississippi State University where she received a bachelor of arts degree in communications with an emphasis in public relations.

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ECCC's Academic, Workforce Education Instructors of the Year announced

Special to The Star

DECATUR – Pam Fowler and Luke Howell, both of Union, have each received East Central Community College's highest recognition for instructors.

Fowler was selected Academic Instructor of the Year, and Howell Workforce Education Instructor of the Year.

Fowler

"This is without a doubt the most prestigious and personally-rewarding recognition I have ever received in my teaching career," Fowler said upon her selection. "I am extremely grateful to my peers for their support and friendship."

An English instructor at EMCC since 2007, Fowler has taught a variety of English classes – including Intermediate English, English Composition I and II and World Literature I and II.

"I enjoy my job every day," she said. "I learn something every day. I find something to smile about every day. What more could I ask for?"

Fowler said she decided long ago that she wanted to be in the field of education.

"I was blessed with some very good teachers and role models that paved the way for my future," she said. "I really enjoy the relationships that coincide with teaching. Over the years, I have had several students touch my life in all avenues of teaching and learning. These students are the ones who have taught me patience and understanding that I may never have learned otherwise."

Fowler said although her parents were major influences on her decision to become an educator, it is her co-workers and students who keep her motivated and positive in the continuance of her career.

Prior to joining the faculty of ECCC, Fowler was employed with the Neshoba Central School District, East Mississippi Community College, Union Separate School District and Lake High School. She has 21 years of teaching experience.

She is also a Mississippi Virtual Community College certified online instructor and has taught online English classes for the past 15 years.

Her honors at ECCC include receiving the Lamplighter Award in 2013 and the William Winter Scholar Award at the Natchez Literary Festival in 2012. In addition, she was selected for Who's Who Among Teachers in American Junior Colleges while a member of the ECCC faculty.

She holds an associate of arts degree from Meridian Community College, a bachelor of arts degree from Millsaps College, and a master of science degree from Mississippi State University. Howell said he decided to become a teacher after serving as a student minster.

"I began to realize the positive influence I could be to a student. I realized if I could learn a skill, teach the skill to someone else, and watch them succeed it was a great reward."

Howell joined ECCC as collision repair technology instructor in 2010.

He said his favorite part about being an educator is the students he comes in contact with every day.

"I enjoy getting to know my students and teaching them a trade they can use to be successful in life," Howell said.

He said he felt honored to receive such an award as Instructor of the Year.

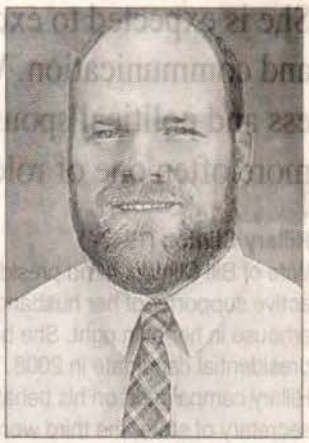
"I take pride in my job as I believe most teachers do. I am thankful the teachers surrounding me think so highly of me."

Since he began his tenure at ECCC, Howell said he has been given many great opportunities.

"I have been to Kansas City, Mo., for the national SkillsUSA competition, Tacoma, Washington, to an I-BEST conference and to Houston for a Pittsburg Paints & Glass paint certification class, he said.

"I have always enjoyed taking students to the SkillsUSA state competition. Students always seem to work at a higher level during the competition. I believe it helps a student realize their true potential. I also enjoy talking to former students who are employed in the collision repair field."

Howell knows personally what the competitions mean to his students because he competed when he was a student in the collision repair technology program at ECCC.



Luke

Howell was a first-place winner in collision repair technology during both years of competition in the Mississippi SkillsUSA Contest and finished as high as seventh in the national event.

A graduate of Newton County High School, Howell holds two degrees from ECCC: an associate in arts in music received in 2005 and an associate in applied science in collision repair in 2007.

Howell credits one of his ECCC instructors for influencing his career.

"Mr. (Conrad) Germany taught me the skills that I needed to get my first job," Howell said. "He taught me you never stop learning your trade. Mr. Germany continues to advise me even though he has been retired for five years."

While a student at ECCC, Howell was actively involved in the music program, participating in various groups including the Wall O' Sound Marching Band; the Ac'cents, the College's show choir; and the Collegians, ECCC's rock 'n' roll band. In addition, he was a member of various musical productions.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Howell worked as a collision repair technician at Marshall Ford in Union. He held the same position at Charlie Beddington Perfect Collision in Meridian in 2007-08.

Howell has served as music minister at Beulah Baptist Church since 2011. In addition, he has been a member of the County Line Volunteer Fire Department since 2005. He is a former student minister at Noxapater Baptist Church and music minister at Linwood Baptist Church.

Howell is married to the former Aubrie Cleveland of Union. They have two children, Jacob and Annley.

WEEK OF MARCH

EC Alumni Board plans spring activities

The East Central Community College Alumni Association Board recently held its spring semester meeting on the Decatur campus. Topics of discussion included the annual MS Community College Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, scheduled Tuesday, April 28, at the Muse Center on the Rankin County campus of Hinds Community College. Former basketball standout Marcus Mann of Carthage will represent ECCC in this year's prestigious group of former standout athletes and coaches. Plans are under way for the 14th Annual Warrior Golf Classic, set for Thursday, June 25 at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club. Activities are also being planned for "Spring Alumni Day," a new event scheduled Saturday, April 11. A complete schedule of activities for the day will be announced at a later date. Seated from left are ECCC staff members Misty Smith, 2014-15 faculty club president, and Teresa Houston, vice president for instruction; Dayna Morgan, Neshoba County representative; Jeanette Thrash of Decatur, Alumni Association president; Ann Burkes of Decatur, Newton County representative; and Stacey Hollingsworth, executive director for Foundation and Alumni Relations. Standing from left are Pete Lucovich of Carthage, Leake County representative; Paul Chamblee, Association secretary; Bruce Lee of Louisville, Winston County representative; Harvey Trapp of Decatur, Newton County representative; Bob Tom Johnson of Forest, Association past president; Randall Lee, ECCC vice president for student services; ECCC President Billy Stewart; and Jerald Everett of Clinton and Bart Gregory of Starkville, both out-of-district representatives. Stewart also addressed the group and provided an update of college events and activities.

EC photo

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 15

Arkansas man selected ECCC public information VP

From school reports

DECATUR — Bill Wagnon of Fort Smith, Ark., was recently selected associate vice president for public information at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced ECCC President Billy Stewart.

Prior to beginning his employment earlier this month, Wagnon served as director of marketing and communications for the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, where he was responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive annual marketing plan and supervised staff in the areas of marketing and communications, graphic design, social media, photography and web management.

Wagnon

Stewart is confident Wagnon will serve ECCC and the community well.

"He is very familiar with the College's 2020 Vision and is committed to doing all he can to see our vision become a reality," Stewart said.

In total, Wagnon has 29 years experience in public relations and higher education including similar positions at the University of West Alabama, Birmingham-Southern College, Mississippi State University and the University of Alabama.

Wagnon received the bachelor of arts degree in public relations/journalism from Auburn University.

He completed a master of science in higher education and administration at MSU.

East Central to host 'Spring Alumni Day'

From school reports

East Central Community College in Decatur will host "Spring Alumni Day" Saturday, April 11, on the Decatur campus.

This is a free event beginning at 10 a.m. at Bailey Stadium and will include fun activities for the entire family including a football team scrimmage, alumni soccer games, music, inflatables and wiffle ball for the kids.

A picnic lunch, including a crawfish boil, hamburgers, sausage dogs and other items, will be served at 12:30 p.m. and activities conclude later in the afternoon as the Diamond Warrior baseball team faces Northeast Mississippi Community College in a doubleheader beginning at 2 p.m.

For more information contact Stacey Hollingsworth, Executive Director for Foundation and Alumni Relations at 601-635-6327 or e-mail sholling@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

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NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

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MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 1 2015

EC hosts Law Enforcement Day

Randall E. Lee, vice president for student services at East Central Community College, speaks to members of local law enforcement agencies at the Decatur campus for "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day," held recently in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Approximately 35 guests from local Emergency Management Authority offices, police departments, and sheriff's departments attended the luncheon, which was held to thank officials for their assistance, shared resources and expertise in ensuring the safety of ECCC students and employees. Also participating in the event were college president Billy W. Stewart; James Miller, ECCC Dean of Students; and John Harris, ECCC Chief of Police.

EC photo

APPEARED IN:

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NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

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WEEK OF Dec 20, 2015

Selected Community Events

ECCC Holds Recognition Ceremony for Renovated Residence Halls

Event Dates and Times

12/16/2015 - 12/20/2015

East Central Community College

ECCC Holds Recognition Ceremony for Renovated Residence Halls

East Central Community College recognized members of the Mississippi Legislature, the ECCC Board of Trustees, and other key people today for their role in the much-needed summer 2015 renovation of two male residence halls on the Decatur campus.

The ceremony was held in the newly renovated Stella W. Newsome Hall. After the ceremony, members of the ECCC Board of Trustees, local area legislators, and others in attendance toured a residence hall room and common areas of the facility.

Newsome Hall, along with L.O. Todd Hall, underwent extensive renovations during summer 2015. The renovations included new flooring, furniture, lighting, restroom facilities, and heating and air conditioning, among other improvements. Common spaces also were updated with new furniture and large screen televisions.

The $2.1 million cost of the renovations was funded by state of Mississippi bond funds.

Speaking at the Recognition Ceremony were ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart; State Rep. Randy Rushing of Decatur; Taylor Guild of Jackson, principal of EGH Architects; Dr. Jimmy Hollingsworth of Lake, chair of the ECCC Board of Trustees; and Jerry Smith of Philadelphia, vice chair of the ECCC Board of Trustees.

"These dormitories were built in 1957 and have welcomed and housed countless students since that time, with only minor upgrades. Today, we recognize the individuals and groups who without their support we would have been unable to complete this project. ... We are blessed to partner with all of you as we strive to meet the needs of our students," said Dr. Stewart.

Rep. Rushing, who spoke on behalf of the legislative delegation, said "We know the value we have in this college. I have seen it grow to what it has become today and I couldn't be any prouder. We work hard to do what we can when we can and we appreciate the opportunity to serve such a great educational institution."

Providing comments on behalf of the college, Dr. Hollingsworth said, "We appreciate all you have done to make today possible. 'Nationally recognized and locally preferred' is not just a slogan, but it has become a reality for East Central Community College. We are proud to dedicate these renovated residence halls, which are just one more step in our 2020 Vision."

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WEEK OF Dec. 20, 2015

ECCC launches MI-BEST program

East Central Community College is now offering Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST).

The program allows qualified participants to obtain high school equivalency diplomas while working on college credit courses.

The program begins in January for those who qualify. There is no cost for tuition for MI-BEST students.

Erin Tramill and Whitney Amis serve as program recruiters-navigators.

Tramill holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Mississippi State University and is a former case manager at Central Mississippi Residential Center in Newton.

Amis received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Mississippi State University and is a former classroom instructor for both Brandon and Newton County high schools.

Students can dual enroll in the GED program and six technical hours or equivalent in workforce programs, including heating and air conditioning, collision repair, hotel and restaurant management, culinary arts, and industrial maintenance.

Prospective students should telephone Tramill at 601-635-6255 or email etramill@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Dec. 13

MI-BEST helps ECCC students earn GED, college credit simultaneously

By ECCC Media Relations

East Central Community College in Decatur is now offering Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST), a program that allows qualified participants to obtain their high school equivalency diploma while simultaneously working on college credit courses.

Erin Tramill and Whitney Amis serve as recruiters/navigators for ECCC's MI-BEST program.

Tramill holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Mississippi State University and is a former case manager at Central Mississippi Residential Center in Newton.

Amis received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Mississippi State University and is a former classroom instructor for both Brandon and Newton County high schools.

Tramill said, "We are allowing students to dual enroll in the GED program and six technical hours or the equivalent in one of the following workforce programs: Heating and Air Conditioning, Collision Repair, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Culinary Arts, and Industrial Maintenance."

The new program begins in January for those who qualify. There is no cost for tuition for MI-BEST students.

Prospective students should contact Tramill at 601-635-6255 or email etramill@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF 11/15/15

ECCC and MUW announce partnership in electrical technology

Special to The Star

DECATUR – Students completing the associate of applied science degree in electrical technology at East Central Community College in Decatur can soon continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, thanks to a partnership between the two schools.

The new Articulation Agreement, signed by ECCC President Dr. Billy W. Stewart and MUW President Dr. Jim Borsig during a ceremony on the Decatur campus, allows East Central graduates to transfer a predetermined amount of career and technical credit towards a bachelor of technology degree at MUW.

Submitted photo

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart, left, and Mississippi University for Women President Dr. Jim Borsig sign an articulation agreement, which will allow East Central graduates to transfer a predetermined amount of career and technical credit towards a bachelor of Technology degree at MUW.

"The announcement of today's agreement between our college and MUW is another step in the fulfillment of our 2020 Vision strategic plan and the institutional commitment of Teaching and Learning," said Stewart during the Nov. 11 ceremony. "This partnership allows East Central to design and implement coherent, structured educational pathways leading to certificate and/or degree completion as well as stackable credentials that enhance students' opportunities for career advancement and upward mobility.

"Today's announcement also serves as an example of the cooperation and collegiality among the state's community colleges and four-year universities for the benefit of our students. They will be the major beneficiaries of today's announcement and that is the way it should be."

Dr. Borsig said, "One of our goals at MUW is to make it easy and seamless for community college students to transfer and complete their degrees. We are also in the workforce development business and are excited that we can help advance workforce education in Mississippi."

According to Dr. Scott Tollison, dean of the MUW College of Business and Professional Studies, the goal of the program is to blend the skills learned in the technical field, the current theories of a chosen discipline, and the critical thinking of a liberal arts education together to develop well-rounded graduates ready for career advancement.

Tollison said "The faculty and leadership at East Central are always looking to provide opportunities for their graduates. We are thrilled that we are again partnering with such an amazing team, this time building pathways for Electrical Technology graduates."

Dr. Teresa Houston, ECCC vice president for instruction, added "Technical degrees have been perceived as terminal degrees for many students because of the inability to transfer technical credits. As we begin to look for ways to allow technical students to continue their education, agreements like this pave the way. East Central Community College is committed to preparing our students for the next level, and, if further education is the next level, we must establish clear pathways to foster that ability to do such. This is an exciting time for the students and faculty at East Central to collaborate and expand their educational and professional capabilities."

The idea behind the new agreement was spurred by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant, which ECCC was awarded in 2014. The $2.5 million grant is helping provide workforce training opportunities in Winston County, including coursework in electrical technology offered at the Louisville Career Advancement Center.

Jordan Robinson, electrical technology TAACCCT grant instructor, said of the new partnership, "This program will make it convenient for all electrical technology students at East Central, including those at our Winston County facility, to pursue a bachelor's degree and enhance their job skills. I think this is a great opportunity for our students, and we look forward to working with MUW."

ECCC and MUW also have a transfer program for students enrolled in the East Central Culinary Arts Technology program, which began in 2014.

For more information on career and technical programs offered at ECCC, contact Wayne Eason, dean of workforce education, at 601-635-6210 or toll free 877-462-3222. The email address is weason@eccc.edu.

WEEK OF NOV 8, 2015

ECCC, NCHS choirs to present 'Messiah'

The combined choirs of East Central Community College and Newton County High School will present Handel's "Messiah" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. There is no charge for admission. The program will be lead by Vicki Blaylock (left), ECCC fine arts division chairman and choral director, and Suzanne Cain (right), NCHS choral director. For more information, contact Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or e-mail vblaylock@eccc.edu.

EC Photo

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL

CLARION-LEDGER

WEEK OF NOV. 8, 2015

ECCC to present 'Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular'

By ECCC Media Relations

The East Central Community College Fine Arts Department will present a "Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular" at 7 p.m. Dec. 1 in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus.

The presentation is being held as part of the college's second annual Cultural Arts Series. Tickets are $15 per person. A reception in the Molly McGee Gold Room will follow the performances.

The Christmas Spectacular serves as a fundraiser for the Series and will feature performances by various East Central musical groups, including the Concert Choir, Voce, Wall O' Sound Band, and various other ensembles.

The art department will also present a display of various mediums.

The Cultural Arts series brings performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community, according to Vicki Blaylock, ECCC Fine Arts Department Chair.

"I hope through the effort of the Cultural Arts Series we can afford all the students at East Central, not just the music majors, an opportunity to enhance their education by providing these cultural opportunities," Blaylock said.

For more information, contact Vicki Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or email vblaylock@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF NOV 8

Boykin selected for Jenzabar Advisory Group

Regena Boykin, associate director for technology management at East Central Community College, was recently selected to serve on the Jenzabar EXi Registration Advisory Group.

The role of the group is to serve as a customer resource to the EX Advisory Board and to help set the direction for the new EXi for Registration. Membership is made up of product developers from Jenzabar and representatives from the EX customer base who have demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the EX Registration Module.

Boykin has been employed at East Central since 2003. According to Derek Pace, Dean of Information Technology, "Selection for this group is an honor and an indication of the outstanding job that Regena has done in administering EX and JICS."

Jenzabar, the college's administrative software provider, is a leading supplier of software, strategies, and services for higher education institutions.

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MERIDIAN STAR		CLARION-LEDGER	

WEEK OF NOV. 1, 2015

ECCC plans veterans' breakfast

East Central Community College will honor military veterans, hosting an complimentary breakfast at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, in Decatur in the Molly McGee Gold Room in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

Retired United States Navy Capt. Milton Smith of Decatur will speak. The college's vocal music ensemble, Voce', will sing the national anthem and trumpeter Nina Labue will play Taps.

All area veterans may attend. For more information telephone Dr. Randall E. Lee, Vice President for Student Services, at 601-635-6375, or email rlee@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

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NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL

CLARION-LEDGER

WEEK OF NOV. 1, 2015

Newly elected Neshoba schoo superintendent focus on learni

By Bill Graham
bgraham@themeridianstar.com

Killer

A longtime East Central Community College administrator was elected superintendent of the Neshoba County School District in the general election Tuesday night.

Joe Killens, a Republican, beat incumbent Democrat Tommy Lee Dearing, garnering about 72 percent of the vote.

"I'm excited," Killens said Wednesday. "It's a natural step in my professional career."

The district has about 3,400 students en in its three schools: Neshoba Central Elem tary, Neshoba Central Middle School, and Neshoba Central High School. The schools located on one campus, but in separate buil complexes.

"Neshoba has a good school system," Ki

See SUPERINTENDENT on page A2

SUPERINTENDENT from page A1

said. "I didn't think they needed somebody to come in and save them, by no means. But I do think I can bring some things to the table that can make it a high-performing system."

Killens said his first priority when he takes office in January will be getting the new Neshoba Central High School built.

In August, Neshoba County voters approved a $14 million bond issue that will help build a new high school and afterwards, a new football stadium.

"I'll have a lot to do there," Killens said. "I'll do a lot of observing."

Killens said his main focus will be on ensuring that students are learning in the classroom.

"We have some very good extracurricular programs, but we need to do our job in the classroom one hundred percent," he said.

Another focus will be teamwork, he said.

"I will not be effective if I don't have good people working for me," Killens said. "And we do have quality employees. One of the first things I want to do is make sure everyone's on the same page and working together. In order to have a successful school, everybody's got to be pulling the same way," he said.

"There will be a learning curve," Killens said of his new role, which will be a change from his experience at the community college level.

To prepare for his new job, Killens has enrolled in a program sponsored by the Mississippi School Board Association. The classes help prepare potential superintendents, he said.

"It's going to help, but I've got a lot of learning to do," he said.

Killens has 28 years of experience in the education field. He started his career at Clarkdale as a teacher and coach in 1987. He started his administrative career in 1996 as the director of the alternative school in Itawamba County. He joined ECCC in 1997 as the director of Student Life. In 2000, he served as the interim vice-president for Student Services, and was later appointed permanent vice president. He transferred to the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Career-Technical Center in 2010, where he has served as director since.

Killens and his wife Teri have two children: Kyle, who works for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and Allie, a junior at The University of Mississippi. Killens is a member of Salem Baptist Church in Burnside, where he serves as a deacon.

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WEEK OF NOV. 1, 2015

ECCC spring registration starts Tuesday

By ECCC Media Relations

Registration for spring semester classes at East Central Community College begins Tuesday.

Classes begin Wednesday, Jan. 6. The deadline to enroll is Friday, Jan. 8, 2016. Online courses begin Tuesday, Jan. 19. The last day to register is Wednesday, Jan. 20.

"Although the semester does not start until January, we encourage prospective students to register early to get the necessary classes at the times that are most desirable," said Dr. Randall Lee, vice president for student services.

To register, students should apply online at eccc.edu. To complete the application process students must have an official ACT or COMPASS placement score and a copy of high school and any previous college transcripts on file in the Office of Admissions.

For more information, contact Student Services at 601-635-6205 or call toll free 1-877-462-3222, ext. 205.

The email address is rlee@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Oct. 25

Receiving special recognition at East Central Community College's 2015 Homecoming celebration held Oct. 17, were (from left) new Athletic Hall of Fame members president and chief executive officer of USLC, LLC Thomas Hannah (Class of 1958) of Spartanburg, S.C., and former East Central head football coach Dan Chatwood (Class of 1958) of Fairhope, Ala., longtime educator Polly Matthews Gordon (Class of 1954) of Union, Alumna of the Year, and Laurel Family Clinic physician Dr Jack Evans (Class of 1972) of Laurel, Alumnus of the Year. Copper etchings of each honoree are also shown and will be permanently displayed in the College's Memorabilia Room located in Burton Memorial Library. The awards presentations were made at the annual alumni luncheon held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on the Decatur campus.

EC Photo

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WEEK OF 08.12.2015

Taylor Machine Works and ECCC announce training partnership in Winston County

Taylor Machine Works, a major manufacturer of power industrial trucks located in Louisville and East Central Community College have announced a partnership to prepare individuals for skilled jobs at the growing manufacturing company.

"Beginning Nov. 1, 2015, applicants for jobs at Taylor will need to have successfully passed the ACT WorkKeys Career Readiness Assessment offered by East Central Community College," said Robert Taylor, vice president of operations at Taylor Machine Works.

"This assessment will help the company determine the readiness of individuals for skilled jobs. ECCC provides the assessment and can help applicants prepare for the test."

Taylor said the company will also start giving preference to individuals who complete the Manufacturing Skills-Basic training program offered at ECCC's Louisville Career Advancement Center.

"Beginning Jan. 1, 2016, applicants for jobs at Taylor will also need to have completed the Manufacturing Skills-Basic training program to be eligible for employment," said Taylor.

"East Central Community College is committed to providing a skilled workforce to Taylor Machine Works and other manufacturing companies in Winston County," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart.

"Community partnerships is one of the five institutional commitments of our 2020 Visionstrategic plan, and we are excited to have Taylor Machine Works as a partner."

For more information about the programs offered at the ECCC Louisville Career Advancement Center, contact Melissa Allman at 662-773-2292 ormallman@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Oct. 12, 2015

The

David LeBlanc named ECCC Alumni Relations, Foundation Director

David LeBlanc of Union was recently selected Director of Alumni Relations and the Foundation at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Dr. Billy Stewart, college president.

LeBlanc, who began his new duties Sept. 14, is a native of Carthage. He has more than 22 years of experience in sales, public relations and marketing, most recently as the regional sales manager for Duro-Last Roofing located in Jackson.

He has also served as vice president for Gym Service and Installation, Inc., of Birmingham, Ala.; territory manager/vice president of sales for Sports Floors, Inc., of Memphis, Tenn.; and manager of Covington Flooring Company, Inc., of Birmingham.

LeBlanc received his bachelor's degree in Industrial Psychology from Mississippi State University in 1992 and his Master of Business Administration from MSU-Meridian in 2006.

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WEEK OF Oct 18, 2015

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL
CLARION-LEDGER

East Central receives grant for online programs

The East Central Community College eLearning Education Program has received a $10,000 grant through the Mississippi Virtual Community College Innovative Learning and Design Grant Program designed to enhance the experience and success of students enrolled in online learning courses.

Dr. Krista LeBrun, dean of eLearning Education, said that ECCC will use the grant to expand the college's eLearning Education facilities and testing services and for faculty professional development.

"East Central Community College has seen a significant growth in online enrollment in the past decade, which has resulted in an immediate need to expand our testing services and facilities, and this grant will help us achieve the first phase of a three-phase process," LeBrun said.

ECCC's eLearning Education Program will move to a larger physical location in fall 2015 to better accommodate the increasing online enrollment. The new location will include expanded office and lounge space to allow faculty and staff to better serve students and a testing center that accommodates 29 testing carrels and proctoring computers to replace the 14 testing stations available in the current location.

LeBrun said that ECCC currently services about 5,000 online testing and proctored examinations each semester.

"Doubling the capacity of our testing center will give us a facility that is comparable to national standards and ensures academic integrity and reliable proctoring services using the most state-of-the-art technology," she said.

The expanded testing center will allow for future implementation of non-traditional services for peak, night, and weekend testing, as well as be ADA compliant.

The grant also will support professional development for eLearning faculty on canvas, the learning management system that East Central uses to deliver online instruction.

"It is important that our instructors have opportunities to learn new and emerging technologies," LeBrun said.

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WEEK OF OCT. 11, 2015

Chatwood, Hannah to join EC Hall of Fame

By ECCC sports information

In recognition of their success at East Central, former Warrior player and head coach Dan Chatwood of Fairhope, Ala. and former Warrior standout Thomas Hannah of Spartanburg, S.C., will be honored on Saturday with their induction into the "Athletic Hall of Fame" at East Central Community College in Decatur.

"I can't think of any event or circumstance that has happened in my life that surprised me more," Chatwood said of the recognition. "As a player and a coach at ECCC, what an honor it is to be put in the same category with so many great and outstanding athletes and what a privilege it is to become a member of ECCC's Athletic Hall of Fame."

Chatwood

Chatwood was a member of the 1957 and 1958 EC football teams, where he was a standout halfback and at times played on defense for the Warriors.

Chatwood continued his playing career at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga during the 1959 and 1960 seasons and earned a bachelor's degree in education. He later completed the master's degree in supervision and administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Chatwood returned to East Central in 1961 and served as an assistant football coach before becoming head coach in 1965.

Hannah

During his tenure leading the Warriors, East Central won the Exchange Bowl Championship and Chatwood was named Mississippi Junior College 'Coach of the Year' for the 1965 season. He was also elected to serve as president of the Mississippi Junior College Coaches Association.

Hannah is a native of Forest and is a graduate of Morton High School where he played football in what was then known as the "Little Dixie" conference. He was an All-Conference selection his senior year and was recruited by Coach Clayton Blount to play for then East Central Junior College.

"When I heard about being selected to the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame I was very happy, proud and humbled," Hannah said. "For my name to be associated with the school in this manner is a great honor."

Hannah was a member of the 1956 and 1957 Warrior football teams before continuing his athletic career at the University of South Carolina.

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WEEK OF October 11, 2015

ECCC faculty to attend conference

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These East Central Community College faculty members were recently selected to attend the annual Lamplighters Conference scheduled Oct. 20-22 which honors outstanding community and junior college instructors throughout the state. Lamplighters and their respective teaching areas include (seated, from left) Cathy May, mathematics, and Mel Pinter, associate degree nursing; and (standing) Luke Howell, collision repair technology. This year's conference is being hosted by East Central and Meridian community colleges.

EC Photo

WEEK OF Oct 11

Evans selected ECCC 'Alumnus of the Year'

By ECCC Media Relations

Dr. Jack Evans of Laurel was recently selected 'Alumnus of the Year' at East Central Community College in Decatur and will be honored Saturday, Oct. 17, during the annual homecoming festivities. When notified of his selection, Evans said he was full of various emotions.

"When Dr. (Billy) Stewart (ECCC President) contacted me, my first reaction was total surprise, followed by humility, appreciation and wonderful memories of a defining point in my life," Evans said. "There are so many alumni so much more deserving than I. I have never felt my life was one of recognition, just blessings. I have been so fortunate to do what I feel I was called to do for the last 35 years. I have done nothing more than all the alumni who I personally know. We are all blessed beyond measure, each fulfilling our individual purpose in life in different ways."

Evans

Evans, a 1972 graduate of ECCC, is beginning his 33rd year as a family physician with Laurel Family Clinic, which provides traditional primary care in family medicine.

"People seem to continue to want physicians who know them personally and are there when questions arise or a crisis is at hand," he said. "A familiar face who knows you and provides a caring touch in a time of need is always reassuring and comforting. I've always felt that everyone deserves a good family physician."

Evans said he can't remember a time when he didn't want to be a family doctor. His grandfather, Dr. Jack Pennington, was a family doctor in Decatur for more than 40 years.

"I actually have three patients in my practice who he delivered many, many years ago. However, my grandfather died when I was 4 years old and his influence on me seemed to be through old friends talking about 'Dr. Jack,' and since I had been named after him... it was a commitment in life that I seemed to want to inherit and acquire."

He says his real role model was longtime Decatur physician Dr. Austin Boggan, who was his family doctor as a child.

"He was a 'Norman Rockwell physician' that everyone loved and admired. Dr. Boggan was a true servant who served selflessly for over 40 years ... He was truly a blessing in my life."

Evans said his years as a family physician have been gratifying on many levels.

"As I tell the medical students who frequently work with me on family medicine rotations, we learn from each patient ... even after all this time. Sometimes it seems the patients supply us with much more than we provide for them. It is a 'hands on' specialty, one in which we provide care by being 'in the trench with the patient.' The relationship between the doctor and his patient defines a personal bond where sharing one's innermost thoughts, concerns and fears occur."

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HOMECOMING 2015

October 17, 2015

7 a.m. - 5k Run 1-Mile Fun Run, EC Pavilion
9 a.m. - Homecoming Registration, Founders Gymnasium Breezeway
10 a.m. - Reunion Groups Meet, Tent Adjacent to Founders Gym
11:30 a.m. - Alumni Luncheon, Mabry Memorial Cafeteria
2:30 p.m. - Football Game – ECCC vs. Southwest

For more information and a complete schedule of events contact Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth at 601.635.6406 or email sholling@eccc.edu.

HOMECOMING COURT

East Central Community College Homecoming Court members include (front row, from left) Sophomore Maids Kaylee Yates of Decatur and Anna Claire Webb of Noxapater, Queen Skylar Davidson of Morton, Maid of Honor Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg, and Sophomore Maid Shelly Dowell of Lena; (back row, from left) Freshman Maids Emily Dykeman of Forest, Makenzie Byrd of Sebastopol, Codi Ballard of Decatur, and Aerial Green of Carthage.

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WEEK OF October 11, 2015

Polly Gordon
Alumna of the Year
Class of 1954

Dr. Jack Evans
Alumnus of the Year
Class of 1972

Dan Chatwood
Athletic Hall of Fame
Class of 1958

Thomas Hannah
Athletic Hall of Fame
Class of 1958

EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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WEEK OF October 4, 2015

Taylor Machine Works and ECCC announce training partnership

From press reports

Taylor Machine Works, a major manufacturer of power industrial trucks located in Louisville, and East Central Community College have announced a partnership to prepare individuals for skilled jobs at the growing manufacturing company.

"Beginning November 1, 2015, applicants for jobs at Taylor will need to have successfully passed the ACT WorkKeys Career Readiness Assessment offered by East Central Community College," said Robert Taylor, vice president of operations at Taylor Machine Works. "This assessment will help the company determine the readiness of individuals for skilled jobs. ECCC provides the assessment and can help applicants prepare for the test."

Taylor said the company will also start giving preference to individuals who complete the Manufacturing Skills-Basic training program offered at ECCC's Louisville Career Advancement Center.

"Beginning January 1, 2016, applicants for jobs at Taylor will also need to have completed the Manufacturing Skills-Basic training program to be eligible for employment," said Taylor.

"East Central Community College is committed to providing a skilled workforce to Taylor Machine Works and other manufacturing companies in Winston County," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "Community partnerships is one of the five institutional commitments of our 2020 Vision strategic plan, and we are excited to have Taylor Machine Works as a partner."

For more information about the programs offered at the ECCC Louisville Career Advancement Center, contact Melissa Allman at 662-773-2292 ormallman@eccc:edu.

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WEEK OF October 4, 2015

ECCC to offer GED ready practice test for $1

East Central Community College in Decatur is offering the GED Ready practice test for $1 through Oct. 31, 2015, in a special back-to-school promotion.

Ryan Clarke, director of Adult Basic Education/GED Testing at ECCC, said that students who take the practice test can see if they are ready to pass the test, determine the skills they need to work on to pass the test, and receive a personalized study plan detailing pages and chapters to study in their favorite study books.

Students who take the GED Ready practice test during the back-to-school special will also be eligible for the GED Ready Practice Test Guarantee. If a student scores "Likely to Pass" on the practice test and does not pass the official GED test in that test subject, they can retake the test for free.

Students can also learn about classes and other resources to help them prepare for the GED test, also known as the high school equivalency diploma test.

To learn more or to schedule a discounted GED Ready practice test, contact Clarke or Tammie Fitzgerald at 601-635-6387 or 601-635-6278. The East Central Community College Adult Basic Education/GED Testing offices are located in Room 10 of Ethridge Hall.

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WEEK OF October 4, 2015

DECATUR

ECCC to pilot 4-day class schedule

Change to take effect in January

By ECCC sports information

East Central Community College will implement a pilot four-day class schedule beginning with the spring 2016 semester in January aimed at enhancing student success and teaching and learning.

The college's Board of Trustees approved the two-semester pilot initiative at its September meeting.

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart said a four-day class schedule has been shown to improve student completion and retention rates at other community colleges in Mississippi, which aligns with ECCC's 2020 Vision strategic plan.

"Two of the institutional commitments of 2020 Vision are Student Success and Teaching and Learning," said Stewart, who

See ECCC, 9A

ECCC

From 1A

initiated the strategic planning process in 2012. "Everything we do is aimed at ensuring the academic and life success of our students. Research at colleges we consulted that are currently operating on a four-day class schedule indicates that student learning is enhanced, and that is what we hope the four-day class schedule will accomplish at East Central Community College."

Under the pilot program, the college will hold classes Monday through Thursday, with Friday being devoted to learning and studying opportunities for students and professional development and advising opportunities for faculty.

"Fridays will be an opportunity for students to participate in learning activities outside of the classroom, such as internships and the Success Center, extracurricular activities," explained Stewart. "Faculty will be available for office visits from students, prepare for classes, and have time to attend professional development opportunities."

Stewart said that the college's healthcare programs as well as the cosmetology program will continue to meet five days a week because of the number of training/clinical hours required by state boards and agencies. There could also be some academic science labs on Friday if necessary to accommodate student need.

Stewart stressed that the college will operate as normal on Fridays, with the exception of a full slate of classes. Residence halls will maintain their current operational times. The main cafeteria will remain open as usual on Fridays, and will adjust its breakfast, lunch and dinner hours Monday through Thursday to accommodate students under the day and Wednesday class periods in the four-day class schedule will mirror the current Tuesday and Thursday class periods, which are an hour and 20 minutes in length.

Holmes, Meridian, Mississippi Delta and Northeast Mississippi community colleges in Mississippi all operate on a four-day class schedule.

Stewart said while East Central's goal is to enhance student success and learning opportunities, there are other benefits of a four-day class schedule.

The four-day class schedule will allow for four, 50-minute activity periods each week for student organizations and clubs to meet as well as students to eat lunch. Commuter students should realize a savings in fuel costs, and students with part-time jobs will have the opportunity to work an extra shift on Fridays if they desire, among other advantages.

schedule also greatly benefits non-traditional students who find it easier to schedule classes around full-time employment," Stewart added. "We also believe it will help us provide a better learning and teaching environment for our students and faculty because we will be able to perform building, technology and other maintenance in many instructional facilities on Fridays."

The pilot four-day class schedule will be used during both the spring 2016 and fall 2016 semesters so that the college can study the effects of the schedule for a full year, including for first-time incoming freshmen who enter East Central in August 2016.

Faculty and student surveys will be administered and data measurements on student academic performance will be evaluated during the two pilot semesters before determining whether to recommend adoption of the four-day class

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WEEK OF Oct. 4, 2015

Gordon selected ECCC 'Alumna of the Year'

Polly Matthews Gordon of Union was recently selected "Alumna of the Year" at East Central Community College in Decatur and will be honored Saturday, Oct. 17, during the annual Homecoming festivities. Upon notification of her selection, Gordon said it was an "unexpected honor she will appreciate all of her life."

"East Central has always provided a superb education to the students in its district." she said. "I have always encouraged high school students to make EC their initial college choice. It provides the foundation for a successful transfer to a four-year college or the basis for advancement in vocational education."

The students to which she refers now number in the thousands and are the result of a 52-year career as an educator. It was a career, which, ironically, she said was never in her future.

"I was a business major. My mother was a bookkeeper in her grocery store (Matthews Grocery) and I thought she needed help. Instead, she suggested that I become a teacher, but I didn't want to do that at the time," Gordon said.

After graduating from Mississippi College in 1956, she married her husband, the honorable Judge Marcus Gordon, and the two moved to Oxford, where he attended law school and she worked in the Office of the Burser, both at the University of Mississippi. She also completed the requirements for a graduate degree in business education.

"At Ole Miss, I met a lady who was a business teacher at Thaxton High School (now Pontotoc County School District) who asked if I wanted her job when she retired," Gordon said. "I really didn't consider it until she said, 'You can work eight months and frolic for four!' I also met with the principal who said he would support me during my transition into education."

And so began her long and rewarding career, which included stints at Taylor High School in Lafayette County, Beulah Hubbard (now a part of the Newton County School District) and finally Union High School, where she spent 49 years before retiring in 2009.

that she made many lifelong friendships during her two years at the college.

Gordon was a member of several college organizations including Future Business Leaders, mixed choir, YMCA, annual staff and band.

She said she received a $6 scholarship for band and that even though she didn't really want to be in it, her mother said she needed to stay and to also further her education in music as well.

"There were only 12 students in the newly organized marching band at that time," she said, "and with no lead trumpet. When we were on the field at halftime we just faded away because there were 25 Centralettes in front of us! I told Mama that I wanted to quit because it was so embarrassing to perform, but she said it wouldn't be the last time I was embarrassed about something and that 'every little bit helps' so I should stay in and keep the scholarship. I did what my mother said and I never regretted the decision."

In addition to her long and rewarding career in education, Gordon has also been heavily involved in community activities.

She has been a member of the

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Gordon taught various classes including typing, short hand, office practices and English before being asked by the administration to take the job as guidance counselor with the Union Public School District.

"I felt like I had the God-given ability to touch lives, but many students also touched mine as I saw them grow in high school and mature into adults in college. I encouraged them all to come to East Central," she said.

In a letter supporting her nomination, former co-worker Steve Nelson said of Gordon, "Through her pleasant demeanor and professionalism, she encouraged and strived to instill in each child that they could make a difference, and that they should concentrate on success rather than failure. She taught them to grab hold of tomorrow and use what they had learned in the past to build a bright and shining future."

Gordon learned the value of a community college education during her time as a student at East Central from 1952 to 1954.

"I could have never successfully enrolled in a four-year college.

"That's why I encouraged my students and my own children to come to EC for at least one year. It provided a nurturing environment where the dedicated faculty and the student body could develop academic and social skills."

She also said East Central was instrumental in helping her have a successful professional career and General Federation of Women's Club/Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC/MFWC) Present Day Club of Union since 1959 and has served in various leadership roles, including three terms as president. She was selected Club Woman of the Year in 2006. She has also served on the district and state level for the GFWC/MFWC.

She has also been a longtime member and served as president of Delta Kappa Gamma, an organization which promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

Gordon is an active member of Bluff Springs Church of God, where she served as music director, and the Union Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, she has assisted with community-wide Keep America Beautiful campaigns.

The Gordons have four grown children: Craig (Brenda) Gordon of Oxford, Teresa Gordon Parker of Louisville, Darin (Polly) Gordon of Corinth, Texas, and Brian Gordon of Union.

They have four grandchildren, Lanna Parker and Lara Kelle Parker, both of Philadelphia, Kelly Lamb of Tupelo and Kristen Shepherd of Lake Charles, La., and four great grandchildren, Kaden Shepherd, Karson Shepherd, Meghan Quintanilla and Morgan Lamb.

Her family also includes a brother, Dr. Milton Matthews of Pearl, who was selected ECCC's Alumnus of the Year in 2003.

WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

Savell chosen as ECCC Workforce Education Counselor

By ECCC Media Relations

Jennifer Savell of Conehatta was recently selected workforce education counselor at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Dr. Billy Stewart, college president.

Savell, who began her new duties on Sept. 8, previously served as clinical services supervisor at the Central Mississippi Residential Center.

Savell

Her experience also includes serving as a youth counselor with the Mississippi Department of Youth Services, therapist at Lackey Memorial Hospital in Forest, and an elementary teacher for the East Central Alternative School.

Savell is a graduate of Jones County Junior College, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and completed the master's degree in counselor education at Mississippi State University.

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WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

Tyson selected ECCC's Humanities Instructor of the Year

By ECCC Media Relations

Speech instructor Rachel Tyson of Morton was recently selected East Central Community College's Humanities Instructor of the Year and will be recognized Oct. 19 on the Decatur campus.

Tyson will present a special program, held in conjunction with Arts and Humanities Month, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium.

Tyson

During her presentation titled "Around the World: And Still Lost in Translation," Tyson will relate her personal and professional journey with the uniqueness of educating students in the humanities while living in central Mississippi.

Tyson is a 2002 graduate of East Central Community College, received a bachelor's degree in journalism from William Carey University in 2004 and was awarded a master's degree in Mass Communication in 2006 from the University of Southern Mississippi. While in college, Tyson visited five of the seven continents working on various missions and cultural exchange projects.

Prior to joining East Central Community College in August 2011, Tyson served as executive director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association from 2006 to 2011. While at MDA she served as camp director at Camp Wesley Pines where she oversaw 50 children with Muscular Dystrophy. She also taught adjunct for Belhaven College from 2008 until 2011.

She has been married since 2006 to Steven Tyson of Morton, who is the customer service manager for Packaging Corporation of America.

Tyson is the daughter of Jerry and Vera George of Morton.

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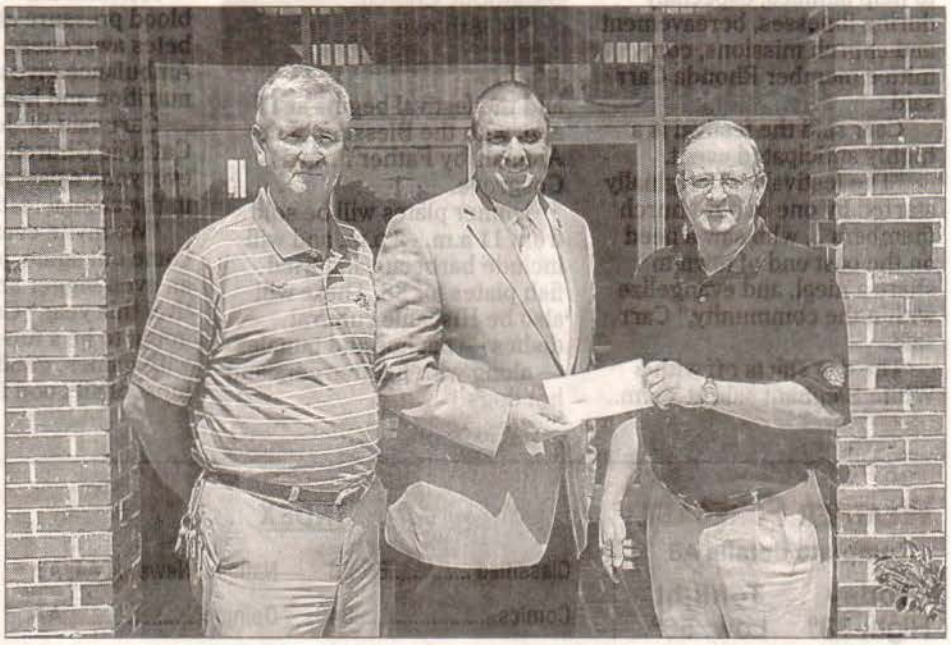
WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

BROWN BOTTLING DONATES TO ECCC



ECCC Photo

Mark Kennedy (far right), general manager of Brown Bottling Group in Meridian, presents East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart with a $30,000 donation to support the college's Warrior Club. With them is Chris Harris, ECCC dean of personnel and athletics. Brown Bottling, a distributor for Pepsi Cola and Dr. Pepper beverages, is the sole provider of drinks to the ECCC cafeteria and grill, as well as vending machine drinks and snacks on the Decatur campus.

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WEEK OF Sept 20, 2015

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Posted: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 4:00 am

• Lewis Davis represented Northeast High School at the 2015 HOBY Conference at Millsaps College.

Davis, who is a junior at Northeast High School, was selected from 127 candidates.

• SCOOBA – East Mississippi Community College art instructor Lisa Spinks' drawing "Sneakers" won her first place in the drawing category at Meridian Museum of Art's People's Choice competition. Spinks has taught art at EMCC for eight years.

The colored pencil drawing of Spinks's shoes netted her $100 and the chance to have her piece, along with another of her drawings titled "Heels," displayed at the museum and entered into the Bi-State Juried Art Competition.

• DECATUR – East Central Community College faculty member Daniele Brock, who provides instruction for the college's First Year Experience program, was one of five national finalists for the 2015 "Excellence in Online Teaching" award presented by Pearson.

Each year, Pearson honors educators who are making a significant contribution to online learning. Nominees were submitted by administrators in K-12 education, higher education and the corporate environment. Pearson is the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 80 countries working to help people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives through learning.

• TiAndrea Beasley-Nelson of Meridian was recently selected Basic Computer Instructor- Twin District Workforce Area at East Central Community College.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, she served as fourth grade mathematics instructor at T.J. Harris Upper Elementary School in Meridian. From 2008 to 2011, she served as a graduate and teaching assistant at Mississippi State University.

Beasley-Nelson received her bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in instructional technology from Mississippi State University.

• Andrea Banks has been selected to receive the Meridian Exchange Club/Bo Russell Memorial Scholarship at Meridian Community College.

This $1,400 award is funded through the MCC Foundation by the local civic organization.

Banks is a 2015 high honors graduate of West Lauderdale High School, where she was a member of HOSA, Tech Masters, Mississippi Scholar and a recipient of the MCC Leadership Scholarship. She is in the Associate Degree Nursing Program at MCC, and works for Subway and Okatibbee Creek Fish Camp.

After receiving her associate degree, Banks will continue her education to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner.

• Tori Wolverton has been selected to receive the Gerry Wayne Purvis Scholarship at Meridian Community College.

This $2,000 award was established with the MCC Foundation by Betty Purvis to honor her husband for his service as president of the Foundation Board of Directors and his commitment to education. Mr. Purvis has been named to the College's Hall of Fame, a recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves in their vocational field.

Wolverton, a 2014 valedictorian graduate of Southeast Lauderdale High School, is in the University Transfer Program at MCC and is a President's List scholar. She works part-time at Ross Dress for Less. Wolverton is a member of the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College and is an officer of Phi Theta Kappa.

Wolverton's goal is to earn a master's degree in aerospace engineering with a focus in astronautics from Mississippi State University. Her ultimate goal is to work for NASA.

• Chelsea Jordan and Sonya Jones have been selected to receive the Jerry Greene Hotel and Restaurant Supply Scholarship at Meridian Community College.

These awards are funded through the MCC Foundation by the local food service equipment dealer. A member of the MCC Foundation Board of Directors, Greene is a recipient of the prestigious Hartley D. Peavey Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence. Students in the Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology Program are chosen for these scholarships.

Jordan, a 2011 honors graduate of Enterprise High School, is a freshman in the Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology Program at MCC. In 2014, she graduated with high honors from the Graphic Design Technology Program at MCC.

Jordan's goal is to open her own catering/event planning business with her sister.

Jones, a 1996 graduate of Meridian High School, is a sophomore in the Culinary Arts Technology Program at MCC. She is a Dean's List scholar and works part-time at Weidmann's Restaurant in Meridian. She is a member of the Colligate DECA.

After graduation, Jones plans to enter the workforce and learn everything she can about the restaurant business and one day own her own restaurant.

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

ECCC plans recognition for alumnae

East Central Community College will recognize alumni association award recipients during the Homecoming celebration Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015, in Decatur.

Polly Matthews Gordon (Class of 1954) of Union is this year's Alumna of the Year, and Dr. Jack C. Evans (Class of 1972) of Laurel was selected Alumnus of the Year.

Former football standout and coach Dan Chatwood (Class of 1959) of Fairhope, Ala., and Forest native and former football player Thomas Hannah (Class of 1958) of Spartanburg, S.C., are this year's Athletic Hall of Fame inductees.

Several reunion groups and numerous activities are also scheduled as part of ECCC's 2015 Homecoming celebration.

For more information, telephone the Office of Alumni Relations at 601-635-6327, or, toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 327, or email sholling@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

EAST CENTRAL HONORS EMPLOYEES

East Central Community College staff members were recently honored for their years of service at the Administrative Professionals Week Appreciation Luncheon. Shown, from left, are Brenda Cheatham of Philadelphia, Lynn French of Lake, and Monica Rigdon of Little Rock, each recognized for 10 years of service to the college; Vivian Taylor of Newton, honored for 15 years of service; and Martha Sibley of Newton, Virgie Thames of Louin, and Carole Germany of Union, recognized for 20 years of service. French is a business office clerk in Accounts Payable, ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart presented certificates of appreciation to the honorees at the annual event held in the Molly McGee Gold Room in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

Walt's Look Around: ECCC Culinary Class

Posted: Sep 10, 2015 5:48 PM CST
Updated: Sep 11, 2015 2:35 AM CST

Posted by Walt Grayson CONNECT

DECATUR, MS (Mississippi News Now) - Our Mississippi system of Community Colleges was recently rated best in the nation by WalletHub, a national survey organization, and some of the type of classes offered could be big reason why.

Of course you can major in everything from pre-med to theater in our community colleges. But I was invited to drop in on a particularly tasty class at East Central Community College in Decatur.

"We've prepared breakfast with little tea scones," a student told me. "Some with just plain plum jelly, others with apple wood bacon and cheddar cheese made out of red berry and yoghurt parfait with an almond granola on top and watermelon grape feta hors d'oeuvres for you."

I'm not sure what all of that is but I picked up on the part that says it was 'for me!'

Chef Barry Karrh's culinary arts class at East Central Community College whipped up a little something that I would grade an A+ just to give us a taste, literally and figuratively, of what they can do in this class.

"We have everything from students from the Choctaw Reservation to just good all-purpose buck-wild old country kids," said Chef Karrh. "Everyone of them comes to me wanting to own their own business and it takes me about six to eight weeks to convince them that is a really bad idea until they have leaned under someone else's tutelage and someone else's pocket book."

In today's session they are making cheese with a couple of gallons of milk, some salt and some vinegar. And depending on what you do with the curds and what you add to it and if you have time to age it, you can come up with all sorts of varieties of cheeses from just these basic steps. Chef Karrh says making stuff from scratch instead of picking it up ready made at the store is a big part of the course.

"In our world, everyone has to eat but not everyone can cook," added chef Karrh. "It's one of the few career fields that will be here as long as mankind in one this earth."

With this particular class, the students are encouraged to go on and get an associates degree. But they can earn a certificate in culinary arts at several stages along the way so they can go ahead and pursue a career.

There are lots of different career-minded classes covering many topics at our community colleges in Mississippi. That's one of the things that makes our system so good.

But as far as being 'good' it would be hard to top this course for tasty. In addition, this is the first college course that I am aware of that offers 'to go' boxes.

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Other X

www.msnewsnow.com

WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

ECCC releases 2015 'Cultural Arts' schedule

East Central Community College kicks off the second season of its Cultural Arts Series Wednesday, Sept. 30, when Dr. Justin Sharp presents a piano recital at 1 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center on the Decatur campus.

Sharp joined the ECCC faculty in August and serves as music/keyboard instructor. He previously served as an adjunct instructor at ECCC, a consultant in the development of Early Childhood Music Curriculum and as a private piano instructor.

His experience also includes serving as a teaching assistant and assistant instructor at the University of Texas at Austin and as an instructor at the Armstrong Community Music School located in Austin.

Sharp received his associate degree from East Central Community College and his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College. He earned a master's degree in composition and a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from the University of Texas at Austin.

Additional series performances include:

Oct. 28 – ECCC art instructor Jeff Hodges to present a gallery talk and art exhibit at 1 p.m. in Vickers Fine Arts Center; a reception will follow. Free admission.

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WEEK OF Aug. 30, 2015

• DECATUR – Chris Evans of Meridian has been selected a childcare attendant at East Central Community College.

Evans

Evans, who began his new duties in August, serves as a caregiver for children enrolled in the college's daycare center, which is part of the Early Childhood Education Technology program.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, he worked at the Charles Young Head Start Center in Meridian and the Porter-Leath Head Start Center in Memphis, Tenn.

Evans received his associate degree in Early Childhood Education Technology from East Central Community College.

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WEEK OF August 30, 2015

Study: Mississippi has nation's top community college system

Warren Kulo | wkulo@al.com By **Warren Kulo | wkulo@al.com**

Email the author | Follow on Twitter

on September 01, 2015 at 11:55 AM, updated September 01, 2015 at 5:18 PM

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, including its Gautier campus, ranked in the top 100 of 670 community colleges in a recent study which found Mississippi has the nation's best community college system.
File photo/Gulflive.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- For once, there's good education news for Mississippi.

A recent study found that the Magnolia State has the nation's top community college system, with five Mississippi schools ranked in the top 100 out of 670 schools nationwide.

The online financial site WalletHub examined the 670 schools in four key areas:

- **Cost & Financing** included data relative to in-state tuition and fees, state, local and federal aid, cost per student and school spending.
- **Classroom Experience** examined active and collaborative learning, academic challenge and student-faculty interaction.
- **Education Outcomes** looked at first-year retention rate, graduation rate, transfer-out rates and credentials awarded per 100 full-time students.
- **Career Outcomes** examined return on educational investment and student loan default rate.

Data for the study was gleaned from the National Center for Education Statistics, the Center for Community College Student Engagement, the Council for Community and Economic Research and the American Institutes for Research and Optimity Advisors.

"Long perceived as the bottom rung of the higher-education ladder, community colleges are often made the butt of jokes by just about everyone -- from university loyalists to cable TV to some of the very students who attend them," the study's authors wrote.

"But guess who isn't laughing: Community-college graduates out-earning bachelor's degree holders. Indeed, the 'junior colleges,' as they're sometimes referred to, are finally garnering the respect they deserve, proving they're more than just 'halfway schools for losers.'"

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College President Mary Graham agreed.

"Mississippi has outstanding community colleges and it's wonderful to have this report to support that knowledge," said Dr. Mary Graham, MGCCC president. "At MGCCC, our goal is to provide the very best educational and training opportunities to the residents of our four-county district.

"I think the fact that we are ranked in the top 100 community colleges in the nation on WalletHub.com and our top ranking on other indices such as Community College Week's Top 100 Associate Degree Producers, Military-Friendly Schools, STEM College and Fastest-Growing Community Colleges, shows that we are meeting that goal. "

Itawamba Community College was Mississippi's top-ranked school, coming in at sixth out of the 670 schools studied. Itawamba ranked 72nd in Cost & Financing, 62nd in Classroom Experience, 35th in Education Outcomes and 228th in Career Outcomes.

Southwest Community College ranked 15th, ranking 74th in Cost & Financing, 138th in Classroom Experience, 196th in Education Outcomes and number one in the nation in Career Outcomes.

Northwest Community College was the next Mississippi school on the list, coming in at 79th overall, with a ranking of 124th in Cost & Financing, 248th in Classroom Experience, 123rd in Education Outcomes and 255th in Career Outcomes.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, which includes the Gautier campus, also finished in the top 100, with an overall ranking of 82nd. MGCCC ranked 247th in Cost & Financing, 156th in Classroom Experience, 181st in Education Outcomes and 197th in Career Outcomes.

The other Mississippi school in the top 100 was East Central Community College, which ranked 96th overall. ECCC ranked 159th in Cost & Financing, 40th in Classroom Experience, 329th in Education Outcomes and 369th in Career Outcomes.

"Across the board, community colleges are slowly stacking up against their traditional four-year counterparts," the study says.

"Schedule flexibility, rigorous coursework and smaller class sizes supply the majority of their appeal to first-time college entrants as well as to university students choosing to transfer to community colleges -- an emerging trend that goes against the usual grain of transitioning from a two-year to a four-year institution."

While the study found Mississippi has the nation's top community college system, North Florida Community College in Madison, Fla., earned the honor as the nation's top individual school.

Mississippi neighbors Alabama and Louisiana did not fare as well in the study, with overall system rankings of 32nd and 44th, respectively.

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WEEK OF Aug 30, 2015

Clarion-Ledger 9-3-15

Moak: Mississippi's 2-year college system rocks

Bill Moak, Consumer Watch 3:19 p.m. CDT September 2, 2015

(Photo: Special to The Clarion-Ledger)

Usually, Wallethub.com studies give me heartburn. The popular finance website is constantly issuing studies which rank states and cities on various factors that affect quality of life, and Mississippi is often in the bottom few — if not dead last. Since I love this state so much, it hurts a little to see the Magnolia State listed at the bottom of — yet — another poll.

But news from Wallethub this week brought a smile, and it's about something we already knew: Mississippi's two-year college system is, overall, the best in the nation.

Taking top honors in the 2015's States with the Best & Worst Community College Systems poll (http://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-community-colleges/15076/), Mississippi's system of community and junior colleges shines in a study measuring various factors at 670 two-year institutions nationwide, including cost and financing, classroom experience, education outcomes and career outcomes. The study was based in part on data collected by the University of Texas at Austin's Community College Survey of Student Engagement.

Individually, five Mississippi institutions landed in the top 100. (Taking top honors was North Florida Community College.) One Mississippi school (Itawamba Community College) ranked in the top 10 nationwide (sixth), while Southwest Mississippi Community College (my alma mater, I'm proud to say) was ranked 15th in the nation overall. Also in the top 100 were Northeast Mississippi Community College (79th); Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (82nd) and East Central Community College (96th). Also appearing in the study were Jones Junior College (197th), and Hinds Community College (234th). Wallethub noted that not all the nation's 1,500 or so community colleges could be included in the study, so only seven of the state's 15 community colleges were included.

"We're thrilled and elated to be recognized in this way," said Itawamba president Mike Eaton, who has been at the school 41 years, and president of the 6,000 student institution since 2013. "I think it's a tribute to all these people and leadership that has always been there; this didn't happen overnight. We have a remarkable staff and board of trustees, and to have the support of the counties we serve is tremendous."

Community colleges have come into their own in recent years, but have been a quiet success story for decades. While quietly plugging away for about a

century, our 15 community colleges have made a real difference in the lives of Mississippians. According to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (a good article by Ben Fatherree is at http://bit.ly/1N7wEu1), most of these schools sprang from "agricultural high schools" established to provide education to local residents. Taking on the role of "junior college," all but one later changed their names to "community college" to match their new roles.

Thousands have not only sought the services of community colleges to prepare them for the rigors of four-year institutions, but many also have gone to community college to get career and technical training or re-training. And recently, with the increased focus on the value of technical training, community colleges found themselves perfectly positioned to take on the new role.

And an investment in community college can pay off. According to some studies (http://bit.ly/1AmLuJ), people with community college degrees in some fields start out with salaries that were as great as — or even greater than some with four-year degrees. Of course, either path (or some combination) may be the best course for a given student. But with the increasing costs of education, many people are looking harder at getting at least part of their education at two-year institutions, which may provide an education of comparable quality, often for less money, in smaller classroom settings and in convenient locations.

"We've always known that we have a jewel in our community college system," noted Steve Bishop, president of Southwest Community College. "It just gives more validity to that now that we've been recognized in this way."

Bishop added that, while he's proud of the recognition for his school, the trophy belongs to the system as a whole. "It speaks volumes when all 15 of us work together — we're all on the same team," he noted.

And the formula for success, both Eaton and Bishop agreed, is simple: attract quality faculty and staff, and bring everyone around the common purpose of taking care of the students' needs. "We're doing missionary work at our community colleges," Eaton noted. "Our system is providing great service to the people of Mississippi."

Whether or not a two-year institution was part of your college experience, we can all be proud of the legacy and leadership that comes out of our community college system. If the golden age of community colleges has indeed begun, the Magnolia State is leading the way.

WEEK OF Aug 30, 2015

ECCC adjunct instructors

Adjunct faculty members at East Central Community College for 2015-16 include, front row, from left, William Miles of Morton, Peggy Clayton of Meridian, Angela Boatner of Philadelphia, Chafony Poole of Newton and Christian Scott of Clinton. Second row, Tammie Fitzgerald of Little Rock, Gwendolyn Barron of Philadelphia, Dr. Rose Eason Brown of Heidelberg, Rhonda Morrow of Meridian and Lisa Blanset-Addy of Decatur. Third row, Scott Vaughn of Decatur, Zach Kilpatrick of Polkville, Laura Reinstatler of Meridian and Denise Keller of Philadelphia. Back row, Jason Fisher of Laurel, and Jody Chaney and Jason McElhenney, both of Union. For more information on the college's academic offerings, contact Dr. Teresa Houston, vice president for instruction, 601-635-6202 or e-mail thouston@eccc.edu. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF Aug. 23, 2015

EC dual credit instructors

Dual credit instructors at East Central Community College include, front row, from left, Kim Fisher of Edinburg, Angela Holdiness of Philadelphia, Melanie Hamrick of Lake, Joan Grimes of Lake and Glenda Massey of Union. Second row, Marc McCool of Louisville; Alexa Ferguson of DeKalb, Misti McDaniel of Philadelphia, Clancy Hamrick of Union and Glenda Cater of Decatur. Third row, Carol Higginbotham of Louisville, Hillary Hancock of Philadelphia, Carolyn Lindley of Ackerman and Paula Stokes of Louisville. Back row, from left Travis Dixon of Lexington, Mandy Sessums Feasel and Brian Norman, both of Union; and Chad Bond of Hickory.

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WEEK OF Aug. 23, 2015

East Central welcomes new online adjunct instructors

Adjunct online instructors at East Central Community College for 2015-16 include from left, front row, James Lamoreaux and Barbara Bishop, both of Meridian; Gertta Biggs, of Pass Christian, Deanna Rush, of Union and Terry Pollard, of Madison; and back row, Carson Atwood, of Ellisville, Jay Pacelli, of Brandon, Bob Schwanebeck and Michele Smith, both of Meridian; and Jon Martin, of Union. For more information on the college's academic offerings, contact Teresa Houston, vice president for instruction at 601-635-6202 or at thouston@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Aug 23, 2015

Returning as the "voices" of East Central Community College football for the 2015 campaign are (from left) Gilbert Barham, of Madden, Melvin Wooten, of Starkville and Frank Edmondson, of Lake. Barham is in his 21st year as game analyst for radio broadcasts. Wooten returns for his 12th year as the play-by-play announcer on radio. Edmondson begins his 18th year as public address announcer for home football games. All football games can be heard on 98.3 FM and watched via livestream at eccc.edu.

EC Photo

EAST CENTRAL FOOTBALL

EC to offer live radio, Internet broadcasts

By ECCC sports information

The East Central Community College Warriors open the 2015 football campaign Thursday, Aug. 27, when they host the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans at 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus. Admission is $7.

If you can't watch the Warriors play in person, listen on the radio or watch new live stream video this season.

All nine games, home and away, will be broadcast live on the radio at WKOZ 98.7 "The Groove." The radio broadcasts will also be streamed online at the ECCC website at www.eccc.edu and at www.kicks967.com.

New this year will be live video streaming of all five East Central Community College home football games. The high definition video and streaming audio can be found at www.eccc.edu or www.kicks967.com.

Longtime Warrior play-by-play announcer Melvin Wooten and color analyst Gilbert Barham will call the action.

MaxxSouth Sports will broadcast East Central's first three home games on tape delay and available to those who have cable television service through MaxxSouth Broadband.

Back this year is the Mississippi JUCO Football Scoreboard Show, which will air each Thursday night from 10 to 11 p.m. on SuperTalk Mississippi radio stations in the following areas: Corinth (94.3), Delta (96.9), Golden Triangle (100.9), MS Gulf Coast (103.1), Hattiesburg/Jackson (97.3), Laurel (99.3), Meridian (103.3), North MS (93.7), Southwest MS (102.1) and Tupelo (102.9). The show will air for nine consecutive weeks beginning Aug. 27 and ending Oct. 22.

Also again this year, the 30-minute Inside Mississippi JUCO Football show will be televised every Wednesday at 10 p.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Twelve shows will air beginning Sept. 2 and concluding Dec. 9.

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WEEK OF Aug. 23, 2015

Sharp joins East Central college's music faculty

Sharp

Dr. Justin Sharp of Sebastopol has joined the music faculty at East Central Community College, announced Dr. Billy Stewart, college president.

Sharp, who began his new duties on August 10, will serve as music/keyboard instructor. He previously served as an adjunct instructor at ECCC, a consultant in the development of Early Childhood Music Curriculum and as a private piano instructor.

His experience also includes serving as a teaching assistant and assistant instructor at the University of Texas at Austin and as an instructor at the Armstrong Community Music School located in Austin.

Sharp received his associate degree from East Central Community College and his Bachelor's degree from Mississippi College. He earned a master's degree in composition and a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from the University of Texas at Austin.

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WEEK OF Aug 16, 2017

Walton chosen as housing and student activities director

EC Media Relations

Dr. Amanda Walton, of Lake, was recently selected director of housing and student activities at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Dr. Billy Stewart, college president.

Walton previously served the college as workforce education counselor, a position she had held since 2010.

Walton

Her experience at East Central also includes stints as administrative assistant to the dean of personnel services and athletics and administrative assistant to the dean of adult basic education.

She received her associate degree from East Central Community College and her bachelor of arts, master's in educational psychology and doctoral degree in community college leadership, all from Mississippi State University.

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WEEK OF Aug 14, 2015

Hollingsworth named director of admissions, records at East Central

EC Media Relations

Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, of Decatur, was recently selected director of admissions and records at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced Dr. Billy Stewart, college president.

Hollingsworth

Hollingsworth previously served as executive director for foundation and alumni relations at East Central, a position she held since 2005. She began her employment at the college in 1997 as administrative assistant in the Office of Foundation and Alumni Relations.

She received her associate degree from East Central Community College, bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mississippi, and completed both the master's degree in business administration and the doctor of philosophy in community college leadership from Mississippi State University.

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WEEK OF Aug 16, 2015

ECCC invites public to 'Meet the Warriors'

The public is invited to "Meet the Warriors" when East Central Community College hosts its annual pep rally and player introductions for 6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 24, at Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

ECCC President Billy Stewart will welcome the anticipated large crowd for the event and provide comments about the upcoming athletics seasons.

Performing groups include the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, Centralettes and the Warrior cheerleading squad.

Members of ECCC's men's golf, men's and women's soccer, and football teams will be introduced by their coaches.

The men's and women's soccer teams begin fall action at 1 and 3 p.m., respectively, on Friday, Aug. 21, at Meridian Community College.

The 2015 edition of the Warrior football team begins its fall season on the synthetic turf of Bailey Stadium on the ECCC campus at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 27, against Mississippi Delta. The public is invited to attend. Admission is $7.

The men's golf team begins play Sept. 12-13 at a Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges event at Eagle Ridge Golf Course in Raymond.

Following the Pep Rally, the student-athletes will sign autograph posters for their fans.

For more information, contact Chris Harris at 601-635-6401 or email charris@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Aug 14 - 20 15

DECATUR

ECCC students return to campus Monday

By Demetrius Thompson
dthompson@newtoncountyappeal.com

When returning sophomores and incoming freshmen started classes at East Central Community College on Monday, they were greeted by a host of new programs, academic choices and facility upgrades on the campus in Decatur.

One of the first improvements students will notice, especially those who are living on campus, is the renovations to two male dorms, Todd and Newsome Halls, but the improvements at the college for the 2015-16 school year go more than skin deep.

Incoming students who may need a little help adjusting to college level courses will get to start earning credits toward graduation earlier than before with the school's redesign of its developmental course program.

"We decided to redesign our developmental course program to reduce the amount of time students spent in developmental courses and provide them with the resources that they need," said Teresa Houston, East Central vice president for instruction. "What we did is reduce the amount of developmental courses to only one developmental English course and one developmental math course but we added a lab component which used to be optional."

gram will allow them to find employment even if they are not able to complete the required 60 hours for an associate's degree.

"We created exit points for our students so they could come for a year and complete 30 hours, and if life happe then they could leave us w

See ECCC

Houston and East Central President Billy Stewart said the reduced course load will allow the students more time to focus on the gateway courses, English Composition I and College Algebra and which they think will be beneficial for students long-term.

"In the past, you could have taken anywhere from nine to 21 hours of classes that wouldn't count towards graduation just simply preparing you for college algebra and English composition I," Stewart said. "The quicker somebody starts earning credits toward graduation, the most likely they are to stay and finish."

While Stewart and Houston said their ideal scenario is for every student to leave East Central with an associate's degree, they know that some students will have to leave early due to personal setbacks. The school's 30-45-60 workforce education pro-

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WEEK OF Aug 9.

ECCC to hold registration for electrical technology program

East Central Community College in Decatur will be registering students for its Electrical Technology Program on Thursday, Aug. 13, at the Louisville Career Advancement Center.

ECCC is now offering courses in its Electrical Technology Program at the Louisville Center beginning this fall.

College officials will be available from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Aug. 13 at the center located at 923 South Church Street to help students register for fall 2015 courses.

The for-credit courses, which can lead to an Associate of Applied Science degree, are offered via video conferencing, with a tech facilitator in the Louisville Career Advancement Center to assist with questions and hands-on course work and demonstrations.

Courses include Fundamentals of Electricity, AC and DC Circuits for Electrical Technology, Residential and Light Commercial Wiring, Blueprint Reading and Electrical Power.

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Technology prepares students to be employed by industries both large and small, by electrical power companies, and in the construction industry.

For more information on the Electrical Technology program, contact Wayne Eason, director of workforce development, at 601-635-6211 or weason@eccc.edu. Or, visit www.eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Aug. 2, 2015

ECCC to give placement tests Aug. 11

By ECCC media information

To assist students who plan to attend East Central Community College for the fall 2015 semester, the college will be giving both the COMPASS and the Residual ACT tests prior to final registration, which is set for Friday, Aug. 14, 2015.

In addition to an application for admission and official high school/college transcripts, ECCC requires that students have ACT or COMPASS scores, which will be used for placement in English and mathematics courses.

East Central Community College will be giving the COMPASS math and English assessments at 8:30 a.m. or by appointment on Tuesday, Aug. 11; Wednesday, Aug. 12; and Friday, Aug. 14, in the Success Center located in the Burton Memorial Library on the Decatur campus. To reserve a seat, call 601-635-6346 or email mboulton@eccc.edu. The cost is $20, and it takes about two hours.

The Residual ACT will be given on Thursday, Aug. 13, at 8:30 a.m. in Success Center in the library. To reserve a seat, call 601-635-6346 or email mboulton@eccc.edu. The cost is $40, and it takes about three to four hours.

Fall classes begin on Monday, Aug. 17.

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WEEK OF August 2, 2015

EC makes top 10 in hospitality degrees

From Staff Reports

East Central Community College has been ranked No. 9 on a list of the 50 most affordable small colleges for a degree in hospitality administration and management for 2015, according to the Authority for Hospitality Degrees and Schools.

The organization developed the list based on the NCES College Navigator, examining schools with enrollment under 3,000 students and offering an associate's or bachelor's degree in hospitality administration/management, general; hospitality administration/management, other; hotel, motel, and restaurant management and hotel/motel administration/management.

From these nearly 150 schools, the 50 with the lowest net price were selected and ranked. The net price is the average amount paid by first-year students. It represents tuition and fees minus average awards.

"East Central Community College offers an affordable associate in applied science degree program in hotel & restaurant management technology that provides education and training in all aspects of food service and lodging management including catering, hospitality marketing, culinary principles, and hospitality supervision," the organization stated in a press release. "Specific courses include Sanitation & Safety, Food and Beverage Control, Dining Room Management, Menu planning and facilities design, rooms division management and more. In addition, the school offers a 30-hour career certificate as well as a 45-hour technical certificate."

ECs net price was $5,643, according to the study.

The most expensive school came in at $17,000 average net and the least expensive at less than $1,000 average net. East Central was the second highest rated school in Mississippi. Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale took the overall top spot in the rankings. It had a net price of $968.

"What impresses us is the depth and breadth you can find in an affordable hospitality degree – a degree that could very well set you on a path to a rewarding and profitable career," said Melissa Maypole in a press release.

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CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

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Meridian Star ✓

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

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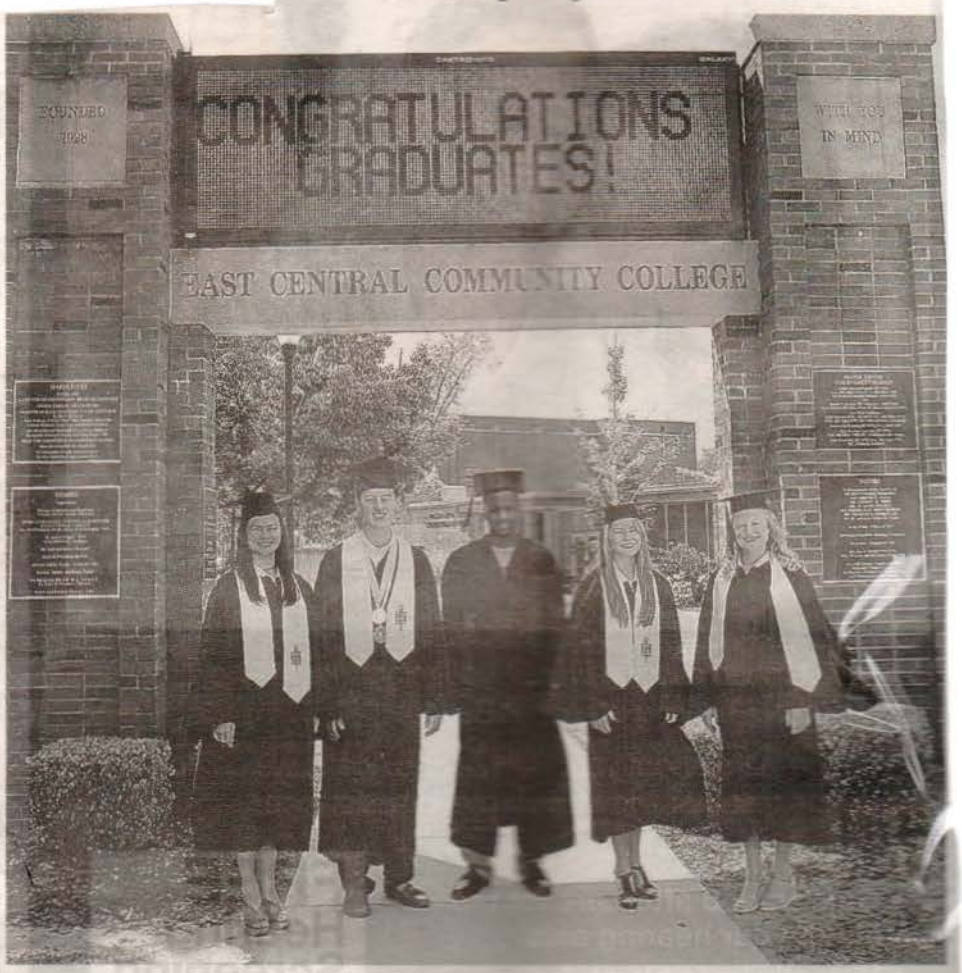

Submitted photo

East Central Community College graduated its largest class in history in May 2015, including a 36 percent one-year increase in students completing all programs.

have both its women's and men's basketball teams qualify for the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament. For 2014-15, the ECCC women's softball and soccer teams were both named best in the state and the nation in their respective sports for academic excellence.

• In June, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) released annual data that showed for the second year in row students who transferred from ECCC to one of the eight public, four-year institutions in Mississippi earned the highest cumulative grade-point average, 3.22, of all community college transfers in the state.

"It's a great time to be a student at East Central Community College, and I cannot wait to see what great things await our college next year," said Stewart. "One thing is for sure, we will maintain a long-standing tradition here at East Central: offering quality educational opportunities to our communities the 'EC Way—Excellence with Class.'"

If you are interested in attending East Central Community College, contact Student Services at 601-635-6205, rlee@eccc.edu, or visit www.eccc.edu.

The next registration session for students wishing to attend ECCC in fall 2015 is Friday, August 14, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Decatur.

WEEK OF July 26, 2015

ECCC: Nationally recognized,

Special to The Star

Following his selection as the eighth president of East Central Community College (ECCC) in Decatur in July 2012, Dr. Billy Stewart established as his first goal the initiation of a strategic planning process that would result in a vision to shape and guide the future of the college. As a result of that process, 2020 Vision was adopted by the ECCC Board of Trustees in February 2013. It included a long-term desire to be nationally recognized and locally preferred with a priority on meeting the educational and training needs of all residents of the college district—Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Winston counties.

"As I pause to reflect on the activities and accomplishments of ECCC over the past 12 months, I am excited about the progress we have made in fulfillment of 2020 Vision, which guides every decision we make as a college," said Stewart.

Some of those accomplishments during 2014-15 include:

• The Clarion-Ledger recognized ECCC as the top community college in the state based on academic performance of transfer students and tuition costs.

• For the third straight year, ECCC was included in the list of the Top-50 Fastest Growing Community Colleges in the nation by Community College Week.

• ECCC was named a military friendly school by Victory Media for the third straight year. A new admissions policy was adopted to offer in-state tuition to all veterans.

• The student newspaper, The Tom-Tom, was named the second best in the state in terms of overall General Excellence in the Mississippi Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest, and ECCC's Phi Beta Lambda chapter, the premier business education association for colleges and universities, remained the largest in the state and is now the third largest in the Southern Region.

• In December, the college hosted its first annual Warrior Wonderland that brought communities and the college together to begin the Christmas season.

• In April, the first Spring Alumni Day was held and a new Disc Golf Course was dedicated.

• Also during the year, ECCC kicked off the inaugural Cultural Arts Series, completed renovations on Cross Hall, installed a new synthetic turf football field, and implemented the 10-point grading system as well as new graduation requirements.

• In May, ECCC graduated the largest class in its 87-year history, including a 36 percent increase in students completing all programs.

• Paving, sidewalk and lighting improvements were dedicated near South Campus, thanks in part to grant funding provided through the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

• Enrollment in online learning courses continued to grow. A $10,000 grant from the Mississippi Virtual Community College Innovative Learning and Design Grant Program is allowing ECCC to move eLearning Education to a larger facility with double the testing station space and provide professional development for faculty.

• ECCC released its annual Community College Performance Profile, or Report Card, as required by the state of Mississippi in May and the college achieved elite status in the area of student success, particularly excelling in the areas of overall graduation rates and preparing students to transfer to four-year institutions.

• A summer 2015 project to renovate two male dormitories, Newsome Hall and Todd Hall, is nearing completion. Thanks to support pledged by the Boards of Supervisors of Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Winston counties, plans are being made to begin construction on a new women's dormitory to accommodate a growing demand.

• The women's softball team played its way into the NCJAA National Championship game and finished second in the nation. The No. 2 women's doubles team won state and regional championships, and the women's soccer team made postseason play for first time in its brief history. ECCC was the only community college in the state to

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CLARION-LEDGER

WEEK OF July 24, 2015

ECCC at the Fair

By Ovid Vickers

Ovid on the porch

The year was 1992. Thomas Carson, Director of Bands at East Central Community College at the time, had recently organized a new group of college musicians. The group was called "The Collegians," and they were looking for venues to display their talents.

One afternoon, while attending the fair, Tom Carson met Dr. Rudolph Posey. Dr. Posey was in charge of entertainment at the fair, and Carson proposed bringing the Collegians to the fair for an afternoon performance. Dr. Posey welcomed the group, and the East Central Community Collegians have performed each year since on what has become known as East Central Day at the fair.

Director Carson, who passed away in 2012, always played guitar with the group. It can truly be said that he was an interesting individual. He had spent his growing up years in Spain where his father Charles Carson, a Newton County native, served as the United States Consul General to Spain, as a part of the American Diplomatic Corps.

Not only did Tom Carson speak fluent Spanish, he was also a consummate musician who taught music appreciation and theory as well as serving as Director of Bands. When he came to East Central, after completing a Master of Music Degree at Delta State University, the college band was quite small. Over the years, under Carson's direction, the band grew to well over a hundred members.

When Carson passed away in 2012, the Collegians embraced the old adage

"The show must go on," and when the group came to the Fair to perform that year, the group hung a large photograph of Carson on the pavilion stage and presented a spirited show.

The Collegians have now presented an afternoon of entertainment at the fair for almost a quarter of a century and will again perform at the 2015 fair.

Not only do the Collegians perform, but the college cheering squad also displays their talents. When the cheerleaders perform, I always hold my breath as they built pyramids, and the person on top winds up among the rafters of the pavilion.

From the founding of East Central, Neshoba has been one of the five counties which support the college. The day East Central comes to the Fair is always a big event with present-day students and scores of alumni who fill the pavilion to standing room only. For a number of years, the college president has opened the program with what could be called a "State of the College" address and a welcome to the crowd

In 1995, for the first time and each year since, the young lady chosen as Miss Neshoba County at the annual pageant has been awarded a scholarship to East Central. In the long history of the pageant, many of the young women who participated in the pageant have been students at the college or listed East Central as the college of their choice.

In 1997, The Neshoba Democrat sponsored a competition of the most outlandish stories told at fairs of the past. After the stories were judged by the English faculty from East Central, a $100 prize was presented to the winner.

To further promote East Central, one can find a booth in the exhibit hall where fans, pencils, pens and key rings bearing the EC logo are handed out to those who inquire about the college and to those former students who drop by the share East Central memories.

In almost every section of the Fairgrounds there is a cabin owned by a present or former member of the East Central faculty. These cabins were inherited, bought, or built by their owners. Some of these cabins include: Carrie Ann Alford (English instructor), Allice Pouncey (Home Economics), the family of Stacey Hollingsworth (Executive Director of Foundation and Alumni Relations), Dr. Melanie Pinter, (Instructor in A.A. Degree Nursing Program), Ovid and Carol Vickers (English), Billy and Susan Fox Smith (Coaching and Psychology), Prentice Copeland (member of the Board of Trustees and former longtime president of the Board) and the family of Clinton Russell (Director of Buildings and Grounds for many years).

The connection between East Central Community College and the Neshoba County Fair is displayed with great spirit during East Central Day at the Fair.

Neshoba County is one of the five supporting counties of the college, and the ties between the college and the county remains strong.

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(The Fair Times)

WEEK OF JULY 19, 2015

Supervisors receive ECCC

From staff reports

Winston County Board of Supervisors opened the July 20 meeting with an update on East Central Community College from President Dr. Billy Stewart.

ECCC

"We had a great year at East Central. Our transfer students had the highest GPAs when transferred to colleges." reported Dr. Stewart.

Dr. Stewart went on to say that ECCC had the highest number of graduates (568 graduates) in the history of ECCC with a 36 percent increase from last year and a 62 percent increase in those who transfered to 4 year colleges.

"ECCC's Softball team is second in nation and this year our women's soccer and softball teams had the highest academic GPAs in the nation," stated Dr. Stewart.

Dr. Stewart went on to report that there have been no tuition increases.

"We continue to have the lowest in state, but continue to offer quality education," said Stewart.

Dual enrollment classes with LMSD and other districts have proved to be very successful.

"Seventy-four percent of our student body is younger than 22 years old. Eighty-five percent of students this year are in district. We are very proud of that," stated Dr. Stewart.

Annual payoff on women's dorm is scheduled for October of 2015.

Classes for the Winston Plywood and Veneer will begin in the fall.

"We are looking at new programs presently to assist in the developement of this company," stated Stewart.

Dr. Stewart presented the millage request which is set at .41 at an estimated $85,000 a mil.

"Winston County is well represented at all meetings. We are making a difference and I'm honored to be part of it," stated Dr. Stewart.

Mike Peterson stated, "Thank you. You are doing a great job."

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES
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WEEK OF JUN 19, 2015

ECCC adds two countians to staff

Two Leake countians have recently joined the faculty at East Central Community College.

Teresa Gordon of Madden will serve as a mathematics instructor.

Debra Hutchins of Walnut Grove joined the staff as workforce development coordinator.

Gordon, who will begin duties Aug. 10, has 26 years experience in education and previously served as adjunct mathematics instructor for East Central and Holmes community colleges.

She has held full-time positions with Sebastopol Attendance Center, Leake Academy, Choctaw Central and Carroll Academy.

Gordon received her bachelor's degree in public administration-corrections from the University of Mississippi and a master's degree in school administration from Mississippi State University.

She has completed additional graduate hours in mathematics from Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C.

GORDON

HUTCHINS

Hutchins, who began her duties July 1, previously served as a registered nurse and team leader/supervisor for Mississippi Home Health in Carthage.

Her duties will include expanding non-credit healthcare training options through the college's Workforce Development Center.

Hutchins earned her associate degree in nursing from Meridian Community College and completed the bachelor's degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women.

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WEEK OF July 19, 2015

HARRISON JOINS ECCC'S TRUSTEES

Tommy Harrison, center, of Forest was recently appointed to a four-year term on the East Central Community College Board of Trustees, representing District 5 of Scott County. Shown with Harrison are, from left, ECCC President Dr. Billy W. Stewart and ECCC Board Chairman Dr. Jimmy Hollingsworth of Lake. Harrison previously served on the board from 1996-2001. He was selected by the Scott County Board of Supervisors to replace Royce Shaw who moved out of the county.

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WEEK OF July 19, 2015

EC keeps tuition among state's lowest

Students see small increase while college grows

By Demetrius Thompson
news@newtoncountyappeal.com

For the second straight year, East Central Community College avoided increasing tuition prices and students will only have to pay a total of $20 more this school year.

Earlier this month, nine of the state's 15 community and junior colleges announced tuition increases, with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College making the biggest jump at 20.1 percent.

East Central was listed as the smallest increase at 0.9 percent, which was the result of the registration fee increase from $40 to $50 per semester.

"The reason we raised the fee was because registration is quite an extensive process here, and what a registration fee does is to allow us to try to recoup some of the staff time, supplies, material and all the things that go into the registration process," said East Central President Billy Stewart who is now in his third year as the school's top executive.

See Tuition, 7A

in about a $600,000 increase," he said. "Now the reason that is so high is because our colleges are funded through FTE, (full-time equivalent). They take all the credit hours that you generate for every class a student registers for and they divide it by 30 hours – 15 in the fall, 15 in the spring – and they basically come up with a number and a portion of your funding is based on that. We had a tremendous increase in the number of credit hours that we generate and the reason for that is we went from being full-time at 12 hours to requiring a student to be at 15 hours to be full-time and that's helpful to the student."

Stewart also cited the support of the five counties that East Central serves – Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and Winston – in keeping tuition low.

"Over the past five years, county appropriations have gone up about five percent," Stewart said. "We're very pleased and thankful for that because we have that to rely on."

Stewart also credited East Central's budgeting staff, who have found ways to save funds and cut costs.

"For example, in November 2012, we were notified that we qualified for a different rate schedule than a residential property," Stewart said. "Because of the gas that we used, we were able to buy it on the open market so we worked with a consultant who helps us identify our need and then we buy that on the open market.

"One year we spent about $95,000 and in another year we spent like $50,000 so we saved $45,000 in a year by simply doing that change. It's not just Billy Stewart, as a matter of fact, it has very little to do with me, it has everything to do with folks that supports us in what we're trying to do."

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WEEK OF JUN 19, 2018

Boggan to serve as ECCC mathematics instructor

Renee Boggan of Hickory recently joined the faculty at East Central Community College in Decatur and will serve as a mathematics instructor, announced Dr. Billy Stewart, college president.

Boggan

Boggan, who will begin her new duties on Aug. 10, has 22 years experience in education and previously served as mathematics instructor at Forest High School since 2008. She has also served as an adjunct instructor for East Central Community College since 2008.

In addition, she has held positions with Newton County Schools, Carver Middle School in Meridian, Bonita Educational Center in Meridian, Choctaw Central Middle School and Newton County Academy.

Boggan received her bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Sharp joins ECCC music faculty

Dr. Justin Sharp of Sebastopol has joined the music faculty at East Central Community College, announced Dr. Billy Stewart, college president.

Sharp

Sharp, who begins his new duties on Aug. 10, will serve as music/keyboard instructor. He previously served as an adjunct instructor at ECCC, a consultant in the development of Early Childhood Music Curriculum and as a private piano instructor.

His experience also includes serving as a teaching assistant and assistant instructor at the University of Texas at Austin and as an instructor at the Armstrong Community Music School located in Austin.

Sharp received his associate degree from East Central Community College and his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College. He earned a master's degree in composition and a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from the University of Texas at Austin.

Robinson joins ECCC staff

Jordan Robinson of Union has joined the staff at East Central Community College and will serve as an electrical technology instructor for the college's for-credit training program funded through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant, announced Dr. Billy Stewart, college president.

Robinson

Robinson, who began his new duties June 10 previously served as the student minister at First Baptist Church-Union and also assisted with maintenance needs at the church.

He also has experience as an electrical technician at ESCO Corporation in Newton and as an electrical contractor for Dynamic Services in Ridgeland.

Robinson earned his associate of applied science degree in electrical technology from East Central Community College.

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WEEK OF JUN 19, 2015

Monday - July 27

Midway open 12:00. p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Mitchell Bros. & Sons Amusements.

U.S. Post Office • Neshoba County Fair Station • Open 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Open 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. Check in Beef Cattle – Cattle Arena

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. FREE Petting Zoo – Presented by Clyde Risher – Cattle Arena

9:30 a.m. Clothes Line Art Contest, Dawn Lea Chalmers, Kim Kilpatrick and Jane Kynerd, Chairpersons. Sponsored in part by Kademi – Founders Square

1:00 p.m. Variety Program presented by East Central Community College – Founders Square

1:00 p.m. Alan Sibley and Magnolia Ramblers – Grandstand

2:00 p.m. Harness and Running Horse Races – Racetrack Sponsored in part by AT&T and Pearl River Resort

4:00 p.m. Clothes Line Art Exhibit – Founders Square

7:00 p.m. Twilight Hot Air Balloon Glow – Joe McKay and Ken Johnston, Balloonists - *Weather Permitting* - Racetrack

7:30 p.m. Invocation- Rev. Chris Vowell, Pastor Crossway Community Church; Official Opening of the Neshoba County Fair, Gilbert Donald, President; Presentation of the Youth Achievement Award; National Anthem by Mrs. Jean Yates-Vocalist-Grandstatnd

8:00 p.m. Beauty Pageant, selecting "Miss Neshoba County Fair" Chief Keith Page, Emcee; Reese McKay and Cooper Warren – Pages; Entertainment by Callie Prince and the Shawn Byars' Hula Girls – Grandstand

9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Dance Music by SNAZZ – Founders Square

1:00 a.m. Midway and Concessions Close

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WEEK OF JUN 12, 2015

EC Day at Neshoba fair set

East Central Community College alumni, students and prospective students and their families are invited to attend the "EC Day at the Fair" festivities at the Neshoba County Fair in Philadelphia on Monday, July 27, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Founders Square Pavilion.

The annual event will feature performances by the college's Collegians rock and roll band, Warrior Cheerleaders and the Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

East Central Community College admissions and alumni representatives also will be available at a display booth in Exhibit Hall to provide information on the college, including various academic, health-related, technical, career and other opportunities available on the Decatur campus and at off-campus locations.

A final registration for new and transfer students planning to attend the 2015 fall semester at ECCC will be held Friday, Aug. 14.

Fall day and evening classes begin Monday, Aug. 17.

For more information, contact Student Services at 601-635-6205 or call toll-free at 877-462-3222, ext. 205. The e-mail address is rlee@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF JUN 12, 2015

Ethridge joins ECCC as computer instructor

Ken Ethridge recently joined the faculty at East Central Community College in Decatur and will serve as an computer science instructor.

Ethridge, who will begin his new job Aug. 10, served as information technology systems manager for East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian.

He also previously held IT positions with Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, N.M, and worked with Air Force ROTC at Mississippi State University. He served as a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1985 to 2008.

Ethridge received his bachelor's degree in computer science from Colorado Technical University and completed his master's degree in computer science at Mississippi State University.

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WEEK OF JUNE 5, 2015

Girling to Serve as ECCC Interim Director of Bands

Ed Girling of Carthage was recently named interim director of bands at East Central Community College in Decatur, announced ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart.

Girling has 33 years of experience as a band director and percussion instructor and has served as assistant band director at East Central since 2010.

He previously led high school bands at Forest, Scott Central, Stringer, Neshoba Central, Manchester Academy, Cleveland, North Sunflower Academy and Yazoo City.

Girling also has experience as a clinic and contest judge and as a band clinician and guest conductor. He is also a music arranger and composer and has served as a percussionist for various music groups.

Ed Girling

Girling holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Delta State University in Cleveland.

The college's Wall O' Sound Band performs during football games, parades, concerts and other campus events throughout the year. The 2016 band is expected to boast more than 175 students and the halftime show is titled "One Hit Wonders."

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WEEK OF JULY 5, 2015

HIGHER EDUCATION BRIEFS

ECCC

Transfer students earn highest GPA

For the second straight year, students who transferred from East Central Community College to four-year institutions earned the highest cumulative grade point average of all community college transfers in Mississippi.

Students who transferred from East Central to one of the state's eight public, four-year institutions earned a 3.22 GPA, according to data released from the state College Board.

Students from the community/junior college with the second highest GPA earned a 3.21. The average for all 15 community colleges combined was a 3.13 GPA. The report also again showed that community college transfer students performed academically as well or better in university courses than students who began their education at the senior institutions. The "native" students earned a 3.10 GPA.

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WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

Football recruiting: Oxford's Gamble picks East Central (Miss.) Community College

Story Comments Image (1) Print Font Size:

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Photo by Trent Penny/The Anniston Star

Tre Gamble

Oxford football player Tre Gamble is all smiles after signing his letter of intent to play at East Central (Miss.) Community College

Posted: Wednesday, February 4, 2015 10:27 am | *Updated: 11:37 am, Wed Feb 4, 2015*

By Brandon Miller, Star Sports Writer, **bmiller@annistonstar.com**

by Brandon Miller

OXFORD — The football career of Oxford's Tre Gamble is far from over.

This morning, the Yellow Jackets' star tailback/wideout signed with East Central (Miss.) Community College, making his plans for the fall official.

"It feels great," Gamble said after a signing ceremony at Oxford's gymnasium. "I'm ready to get to East Central and start the next part of my career. It's going to be great."

During this morning's ceremony, Yellow Jackets head coach Ryan Herring said Gamble has the potential to play in the NFL one day, if he wants to. The coach said in his 17-year coaching career he has told that to two players — Gamble and Roc Thomas, a former Oxford star who now plays running back at Auburn.

Gamble's athleticism will having him playing a similar role at East Central as he did this past season at Oxford. He began the season at wide receiver but finished at running back.

He rushed for 1,473 yards rushing and 23 touchdowns after changing positions midseason. He also had 664 receiving yards and five scores.

Gamble's position change and overall athleticism has made him the best offensive player Herring has coached, the coach said.

"I think if he was going to Auburn or East (Central) Mississippi, he would show up and be a standout guy," Herring said. "There's no doubt in my mind. I know he can do that."

Gamble committed to East Central on Sunday following a visit to campus.

"I just went with my mind. I liked it and made my choice," he said. "The community, the coaches make it feel like it could be another home."

• Lobster Bisque
• Strawberry & Avocado Salad
• Entree with Alabama Grass-Fed Ribeye Steak & Grilled Gulf Shrimp
• Chocolate Tart

Lounge, at cheahabrewing

Call 256-770-7300 For Reservations

Said Herring: "He's been through a lot in his high school career and he's had to battle through a lot of stuff to be here today. I'm really proud of him and just happy for him to have the opportunity to move on and go to the next step."

Sports Writer Brandon Miller: 256-235-3573. On Twitter @bmiller_star.

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WEEK OF June 28, 2015

FCA's Hosket looks for opportunity at East Central CC

By Austin Bishop
Winston County Journal

Jesse Hosket clearly understands what is on the line as he enters his sophomore, and last, season of junior college football.

"I have one last year to go out and prove myself," said Hosket, who transferred to East Central Community College from Itawamba Community College in January. "I am in the best shape I have been, and I'm throwing the ball well."

The 6-foot-5, 215-pound former French Camp Academy standout is one of three quarterbacks battling for the starting position as the Warriors of ECCC head into August workouts.

Hosket

"The biggest thing Jesse brings to the table is that he is from a winning program and he is from a coach's family," said East Central head football coach Ken Karcher. "He understands the game and he desires to be good. He brings a quality of leadership we need."

Jesse's father Bruce is long-time assistant coach at FCA.

Hosket had a strong spring and had a slight edge as the second semester came to a close, but Karcher noted that Hosket, Pearl River Community College transfer Vonnie Howard, and ECCC returning sophomore Trey Willis would all have a shot at coming out of preseason camp as the starter. Willis saw a lot of playing time for the Warriors near the end of the 2014 season.

"They all have different things they bring to the table," Karcher said. "I am a guy who likes to play one quarterback. I want one guy to go with.We are going to name a starter. We really don't have a timetable. We are just going to let things work themselves out and then we will make a decision."

Hosket saw limited playing time for the Indians of ICC last year, hitting on 9-of-11 passes for 108 yards. His best game came in a 47-14 win over Coahoma where he hit on 5-of-5 passes for 93 yards and a 10-yard scoring strike. He finished the year with one touchdown pass and one interception.

"We recruited him out of high school, so i am glad he chose to come here," Karcher said. "Now it is going to be up to him."

Hosket said he felt the spring went well as he began to learn the East Central offense. "It is more of a pro-style, which is something I am very comfortable with," he said.

During his senior season at FCA, Hosket led the Panthers to the MHSAA Class 1A State Championship.

East Central is set to open the 2015 season at home against Mississippi Delta on Thursday, Aug. 27.

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Jun 15, 2015 | 05:50 am

WKU BOUNCE-BACK WILL PLAY AT EAST CENTRAL

WEEK OF June 14, 2015

SCOTT EKLUND
JCFootball.com

East Central DT Derek Mahaffey (6-3, 290) discusses his decision to leave WKU and enroll at East Central...

DEREK MAHAFFEY

East Central (Miss.)

POS	HT	WT
DE	6'3"	290

After a solid prep career at Oxford High School in Alabama, Mahaffey decided to sign with Western Kentucky, but after a year there, he decided to leave for a fresh start.

"I had offers from Jacksonville State, Chattanooga and Western Kentucky and I signed with Western Kentucky," Mahaffey told JCFootball.com recently. "I left this spring. It just wasn't the best fit for me, so I start to look around and East Central was a better fit for me coming in as a transfer.

"They are a up-and-rising program and they treat you like family."

With his outstanding size and quickness, Mahaffey can play almost anywhere along the defensive line, but he'll man the three-tech, defensive tackle spot once he enrolls there later this month.

"I can play all across the line, but I'm comfortable in the three-tech," Mahaffey noted. "My technique and get off are great and I give great effort and good explosive to be my size."

Even with his nice repertoire of talent and technique, Mahaffey knows he's still got some things to work on.

"I jjust need to get stronger and faster. Those are the big things," Mahaffey said. "I also just need to keep staying consistent in my workouts and getting better."

So far, recruiting has been pretty quite aside from one of his former suitors, but that is probably because no one knows where he will wind up and play this fall.

"Jacksonville State is the one school that I've talked to, but I'm just now getting settled in so hopefully that will change," Mahaffey added.

Mahaffey will be a redshirt freshman this fall and he's still figuring out whether he will be available in December or whether he will need to wait until the spring of 2016.

Wherever he winds up, Mahaffey will have three years to play three following the 2015 football season.

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WEEK OF July 17 2015

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ECCC Warriors set 2015 football schedule

By ECCC sports information

Five home games on the synthetic turf of Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus of East Central Community College highlight the Warriors 2015 football schedule.

The EC Warriors begin the season with their first two games at home. On Thursday, Aug. 27, Mississippi Delta Community College visits Decatur, with kickoff set at 6:30 p.m. Coahoma Community College will travel to Decatur on Thursday, Sept. 3, for a 6:30 p.m. contest.

The Warriors hit the road for the first time Thursday, Sept. 10, to face Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston at 7 p.m. The following Thursday, Sept. 17, East Central travels to Holmes Community College for a 7 p.m. matchup to be played at Grenada High School.

EC returns home to Decatur for its next two games, Thursday, Sept. 24, against Copiah-Lincoln Community College at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 1, against Hinds Community College at 6:30 p.m.

In its first Saturday game of the year, EC travels to Jones County Junior College in Ellisville for a 2 p.m. matchup on Oct. 10.

The annual East Central Community College Homecoming game and festivities will take place the following Saturday, Oct. 17, as Southwest Mississippi Community College visits Bailey Stadium in Decatur. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m.

The Warriors close out the regular season on Thursday, Oct. 22, traveling to Poplarville to face Pearl River Community College at 7 p.m.

East Central looks to continue to improve under third-year Head Coach Ken Karcher. The Warriors were 3-6 on the 2014 season.

For more information, contact Dean of Personnel Services/Athletics Chris Harris at 601-635-6401, toll-free 877-462-3222, ext. 401, or charris@eccc.edu.

2015 schedule

Aug. 27: MS Delta
Sept. 3: Coahoma
Sept. 10: at Gulf Coast
Sept. 17: at Holmes
Sept. 24: Copiah-Lincoln
Oct. 1: Hinds
Oct. 10 (Saturday): at Jones
Oct. 17 (Saturday): Southwest (HC)
Oct. 22: at Pearl River

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NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X
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pg. 2

Apr. 19, 2015

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Above, Coach Ken Karcher with Coach Ben Cooper; at right, the Karcher family with Tony Dungy: from left are Ken, Clay, Tony Dungy, Pauline and Austin. Not pictured are daughters Kelly and Katie Karcher.

"I can remember standing in church next to an alumnus and he said 'I don't want to stand next to a loser,'" Karcher said. "I really looked around to see who he was talking to. I said 'Are you talking to me? It is physically impossible to be a loser in Christ.'"

He faced a similar situation during one of his first meetings with his fellow MACJC coaches after taking the head job at ECCC.

"I was standing next to a coach and he said 'You will never win at East Central,'" Karcher said. "I looked at him and said 'we are already winning.'"

Following after Christ was not on the front burner for Karcher when he was at Notre Dame, but that's where he experienced a spiritual change in his life.

"Like everything, it has been a journey," Karcher said. "Sports was my God. I could have played baseball, basketball or football. I was just gifted when it came to sports. It was all about me and my ability. While I was at Notre Dame God used my younger brother to bring me into a relationship with Christ, and that started me on a path to change.

"It wasn't about my ability any more," he said. "I began to understand that football was much bigger than a game."

He later transferred to Tulane and then went on to play professional football for awhile, including stints with the Kansas City Chiefs and Denver Broncos.

While in Denver he attended seminary classes. That was where, of all places, he began to make the decision to become a coach.

"I was sitting in class one day and a couple of buddies of mine said 'Why don't you get into coaching?' I thought about it and realized I could coach football and still have a major impact in a young man's life," Karcher said. "That's what it's really about for me."

One coach Karcher had a lot of respect for was Tony Dungy, who he met while playing for Kansas City.

"We believe in the same things," Karcher said of Dungy, who recently visited East Central to help raise funds for the program. "All football ever is and ever will be is a tool. All the awards and all the trophies are going to be gone one day."

Karcher said what he looks for in student athletes are young people interesting in working hard, improving on their abilities and giving it their all to improve both on the field and as people.

"I have never cussed a kid in 26 years as a coach," he said. "I think we are teachers. You don't have teachers yelling and cussing in class. There are a few times I will raise my voice — if you don't give effort, if you don't prepare, and if you disrespect a coach."

"As a coach, if everything is performance-based, you will only see them (athletes) for their value to your program," he said. "I see them as more than that."

But Karcher is quick to say how you play on the field can indeed determine how much playing time you see.

"There are consequences for a bad performance," he said. "Having consequences is important. If you aren't playing well, you may be standing next to me (on the sidelines)."

He has a unique perspective on giving student athletes a chance to be successful.

"You have to have the ability to give someone the grace to fail," he said. "There is pressure on you when you are afraid to fail."

But, he knows how the football game works.

"I understand who I am," he said "I understand I might get fired if we don't win enough, but I'm still going to coach and run the program the way I feel is right. And that is to impact as many lives as I can in a positive way."

Winston County Journa

Other Publications

WEEK OF April 11, 2013

East Central's Karcher takes coach road less traveled

Submitted photo

By Austin Bishop
sports@newtoncountyappeal.com

Ken Karcher is not your typical college football coach, but he's OK with that.

While the former Notre Dame, Tulane and NFL quarterback certainly enjoys winning football games, the East Central Community College head football coach quickly points out that the scoreboard does not dictate who he is as a person, nor does it determine the success of his team.

"I win every day," Karcher said. "If winning is based only on the scoreboard that means every (Thursday), Friday, Saturday, and Sunday that 50 percent of the coaches out there are losers. Sports tells people that their performance is their identity. Sports is what you do, it isn't who you are. Ninety percent of all coaches and athletes let their performance determine who they are."

Karcher is headed into his third season as head coach at ECCC, after serving as an assistant coach at several NCAA Division I football programs and six seasons as head coach at Liberty University. It was there where he posted a 21-46 overall mark and was confronted by a fan in an unusual setting. It was something Karcher remembers to this day.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF March 22, 2015

Defensive lineman Jalon Sangster signed with East Central Community College, while center Kirk Sisson chose Hinds Community College and linebacker Julius Love signed with Coahoma Community College.

Sangster said staying close to home played in his decision to take the short trip to Decatur to play for ECCC.

"I also feel like I can do down there and make an impact," said Sangster, who at 6-foot-1, 230-pounds will be looked at to play defensive end for the Warriors.

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WEEK OF Feb. 22, 2015

THE MERIDIAN STAR
Saturday, February 28, 2015

PACE SIGNS WITH WEST ALABAMA

Photo courtesy of East Central Community College

East Central Community College Warrior defensive lineman Tyler Pace (seated, center) of Newton signs a letter of intent to continue his football career at the University of West Alabama. Pace, a 6-foot-2, 276-pound former Newton High School standout, accumulated 18 solo tackles, 13 assists and led the Warriors with five quarterback sacks this season. Pcitured with him are, from left, seated, mother Alysia Pace and grandmother Gladis Pace; standing, assistant football coach Mickey Mays and head football coach Ken Karcher.

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WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

Welch joins ECCC football staff

From school reports

DECATUR — Taylorsville native Derek Welch was recently named an assistant football coach at East Central Community College.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Welch served as an assistant defensive backs coach at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La.

He has also held similar positions at Kemper County High School in DeKalb and Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark.

His experience also includes his service as a Summer Basketball Camp director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America in Union City, Tenn.

Welch received his bachelor's degree in 2012 in health and human performance from the University of Tennessee-Martin where he was a two-year starter at cornerback. Welch and the UT-Martin defense led the league in four categories including total defense, passing defense, passing efficiency defense and first and third-down defense; and were ranked fifth nationally in total defense.

A 2008 graduate of Jones County Junior College, Welch was a two-year letterman for the Bobcats and was selected first team All-State as both a defensive back and wide receiver.

He was also a first team All-State selection at Taylorsville High School, where he graduated in 2007.

B3

ECCC gets sweep

From school reports

East Central Community College's fast-pitch softball squad swept Marion Military in double-header action Thursday on the Decatur campus.

The Lady Diamond Warriors took an early lead in game one to capture a 16-5 victory over the Lady Tigers and completed the sweep with an 8-0 shutout.

In Game 1, Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School went 4-for-4, including two doubles, to lead the Lady Warrior offense. She also scored two runs and had three RBIs.

Other hitters were Caitlyn Aldous of Petal, Mallory Lee of Quitman and Maegen Ellis, a product of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, each with a double and single; Karoline Holsonback, a product of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., double; Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale and Christen Benson of Brookhaven, two singles each; and Rachel Davis of Petal, single.

MORE INFORMATION

Mahalia Gibson went 4-for-4 with two doubles for ECCC in Game 1. She also scored three runs and had three RBIs.

In addition to Gibson, runs were scored by Turner (3), Aldous (2), Lavender (2), Benson (2), Hannaford, Lee, Duke, Holsonback and Ellis.

Lacey Hill was the winning pitcher. She went three innings and allowed one earned runs on three hits. She also fanned two batters and walked one. Hill is a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School.

In the second game, Ellis had a double and two singles and Nowell had three singles to lead the ECCC offense. Ellis led in RBIs with three.

Other hitters were Gibson, double and single; Turner, two singles; and Aldous, Hannaford and Benson, each with a single.

Runs were scored by Turner (3), Gibson, Aldous, Benson, Nowell and Ellis.

Leake Academy product Chloe Thaggard got the win. She allowed no runs on three hits in five innings. She struck out six batters and walked one.

The Lady Diamond Warriors face Alabama Southern Community College Tuesday, Feb. 17. Game times are 2 and 4 p.m. on the Decatur campus.

ECCC will travel to Mississippi Delta Community College Tuesday, Feb. 18. Game times are 1 and 3 p.m. on the Moorhead campus.

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WEEK OF Dec. 20, 2015

Ex-Dollarway standout Ento signs with Colorado football

Former Dollarway High School three-sport athlete Kabion Ento, center, signed his national letter of intent to play football at Colorado on Wednesday at his family's home in Pine Bluff. Ento, a wide receiver, signs with the Buffaloes out of the Pac-12 Conference after two years at East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi. After wrapping up his Cardinal career with The Commercial's Defensive Player of the Year honor, Ento focused on offense at East Central where he shined for the Warriors. Ento helped East Central win the Heart of Texas bowl this season, hauling in a 38-yard touchdown in the game. Ento plans to major in education when he enrolls at the Boulder-based school in January. Wednesday was the first day JUCO recruits could sign with four-year schools. Pictured with Ento are, seated, A'Kyre Ento, daughter; Vonda S. Rogers, mother; Lillie M. Reeves, grandmother; and standing, Willie A. Rogers, father; coach Lee Hardman; Akkeva Howard, girlfriend; Kamaree J. Ento, brother; coach Ellis Berry; LaShonaka Miller, sister.

Zebra coaches, players...

Former Zebra, Weevil...

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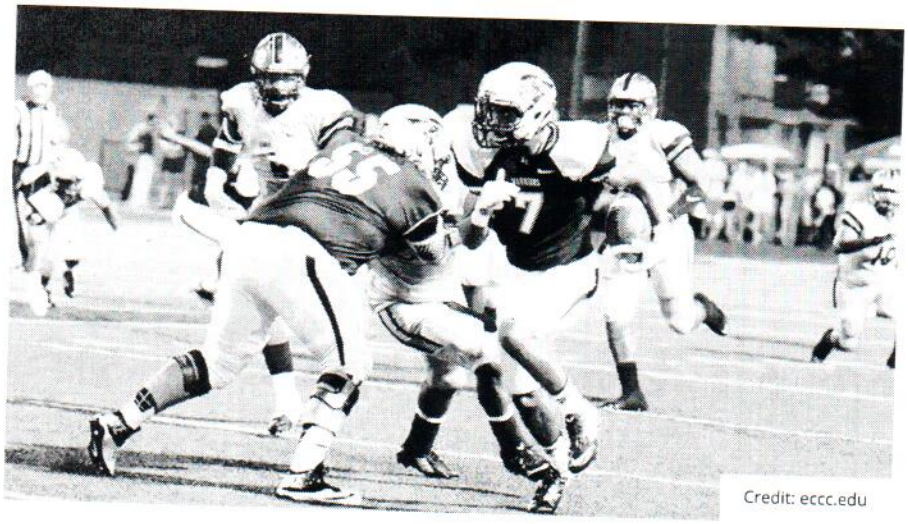
WEEK OF Dec. 20, 2015

CU Buffs land JUCO wide receiver

By Ryan Koenigsberg on December 16, 2015



Credit: eccc.edu

Facebook Twitter Email

Mike MacIntyre and his staff got good news on Wednesday afternoon when Kabion Ento, a 6-foot-3, 175 pound JUCO wide receiver, who visited Boulder just this last weekend, announced he was signing with the Buffs.

Kabion J. Ento
@Kabionento

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WEEK OF Dec 20

JUCO FOOTBALL

ECCC's Hosket set to continue career at Southeast Missouri

By Austin Bishop
Special to The Star

DECATUR — After a frustrating freshman year at Itawamba Community College in 2014, former French Camp Academy football standout Jesse Hosket transferred to East Central Community College for the 2015 season and found a home.

The 6-foot-4, 215-pound strong-armed quarterback hit on 148-of-224 passes for 1,743 yards and 19 touchdowns while tossing just one interception as he led the Warriors to an 8-3 record, a 35-21 win over Kilgore (Texas) College in the Heart of Texas Bowl, and a No. 10 final ranking in the NJCAA poll.

"They will always remember us for turning that thing around over there and I was glad to be a part of it," Hosket said of playing for coach Ken Karcher and the Warriors. "It was just a perfect fit for me."

Hosket hopes he has found that 'perfect fit' once again as last week he signed to play for Southeast Missouri of the Ohio Valley Conference. Hosket will be transferring in January and will be taking part in spring practice, much like he did a year ago when he made the move to East Central.

"I will be given the opportunity to compete for playing time and the rest will just be up to me," Hosket said of playing quarterback at SEMO. "They have a lot of good players coming back and lost several close games. I think it will be a lot of fun."

Hosket said he had narrowed his choices down to West Texas and SEMO, but chose the Redhawks, noting that Karcher and the SEMO coach had a connection.

"It just seemed to be the

See HOSKET on page B2

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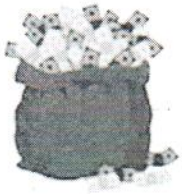
WEEK OF Dec 20

Ento's journey leads to Division I football



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AUDITOR OF STATE

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By Ocie B. Brown
SPECIAL TO THE COMMERCIAL

Pine Bluff native and former Dollarway Cardinal Kabion Ento has signed a letter of intent to finish his colliegiate career at the Colorado University.

Ento recently finished his second season at East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi. He played two season at East Central, meaning he has two years of elgibility left, but could also reshirt one season. Ento will be enrolling at Colorado in January.

Ento helped the East Central Warriors finish in the top 10 of the national junior college rankings, and he helped lead them to their best overall record since 1999. The Warriors finished 8-3, and they capped of their best season in a while with a win in the Heart of Texas Bowl. Ento was a part of a special team at East Central, as this year was the first time winning a bowl game since 1996.

Ento was a big contributer for the Warriors, and he was able to earn a Division I scholarship to play in Boulder. Before taking the JUCO route, Ento flourished as a Cardinal at Dollarway High School. He was a three sport athlete, and he helped Dollarway reach the semifinals of the 4A state playoffs during his senior season.

Dollarway head coach Cortez Lee had the pleasure of coaching Ento, and he expected nothing less than what has come.

"His last year here at Dollarway, he was most definitely one of the most versatile players on the team," Lee said. "Ento has incredible intangibles, and he has a lot to offer to a football team. He has the abliliy to line up at multiple positions, and it's always good to have guys like that."

At East Central, Ento showcased his ability to go up and get the ball, and at 6-foot-3, 175 pounds, he serves as a rangy target with nice hands. Ento finished the 2015 season with 38 receptions for 607 yards and eight touchdowns. He averaged a whopping 16 yards per catch, and he served as one of the Warriors sure-handed deep threats.

Lee noted that Ento was important to the Dollarway football program both on and off the field. Being a leader was his best characteristic, and even though he took the junior college route, Lee knew that Ento was special.

"The thing that stood out the most while he was here was his leadership," Lee said. "Throughout the game you can see him keeping guys focused and on task. He has always led by example, and he has a work ethic that complements him as a player. Ento has been committed to perfecting his craft, and he's continuing to do so."

Ento plans to take those great qualities with him to Colorado as he looks to become a weapon in the Buffaloes' offense. Ento received multiple scholarship offers, and he proved that success can be had by taking the junior college path. What he has done means a lot to the Dollarway football program and athletes around the city of Pine Bluff.

"I think it's a big statement for our football program," Lee said. "It just shows that if you keep grinding and working towards your goals you can achieve them. Ento has set a great exapmle, and maybe they'll be more to follow his path if necessary."

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WEEK OF Dec. 13, 2015

JUCO FOOTBALL

East Central finishes season ranked No. 10 in nation

By ECCC sports information

Following its victory in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl, the East Central Community College Warrior football team is ranked No. 10 in the final National Junior College Athletic Association Top 20 Football Poll for the 2015 season.

East Central capped off its best season in 16 years with a 35-21 win over No. 20 Kilgore College in the HOT Bowl Saturday, Dec. 5, in Copperas Cove, Texas. East Central entered the game ranked No. 15.

The Warriors finished the 2015 season with an 8-3 record, the best won-loss record since 1999. All three of the losses came to teams ranked in the top 10 in the final 2015 NJCAA Top 20 Poll.

"I am very excited for our players, staff and football program in being selected in the top 10 to finish the season," said third-year Head Coach Ken Karcher. "This is an honor for our college, our fans, and our community."

It was a year of firsts for the East Central Community College football team. The HOT Bowl was East Central's first bowl game since 1996, and only the fourth bowl game since the Warriors began playing football in 1928. Only 14 community college football teams in the nation were invited to bowl games this year.

Northwest Mississippi finished the year ranked No. 1 in the nation, followed by Copiah-Lincoln at No. 4, East Mississippi at No. 7, Mississippi Gulf Coast at No. 8.

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WEEK OF Dec. 13, 2015

Posted December 11, 2015 - 3:55pm

Ento, Murphy help lead ECCC to bowl win

ECCC SPORTS INFORMATION

COPPERAS COVE, Texas — A pair of Dollarway graduates helped lead the No. 15 East Central Community College Warriors to a 35-21 victory over the No. 20 Kilgore College Rangers last Saturday in the 2015 C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl.

East Central, out of Decatur, Mississippi, turned an interception and two fumbles into touchdowns in the first quarter to race to a 21-0 lead. East Central took a 21-7 lead into the locker room. The two teams would combine for 28 points in the third quarter.

East Central took just four plays to score to open the second half scoring. Quarterback Jesse Hosket found wide receiver Devin McIntosh in the corner of the Rangers' end zone from 15 yards out to stretch the Warriors lead to 28-7 lead. The drive began with a 44-yard pass from Hosket to former Cardinal Henri Murphy to the Rangers' 12-yard line.

Kilgore closed the gap to 28-14 on a 20-yard toss from quarterback Josh Bolfing to tight end Jarod Wood on a second-and-goal play with 6:34 left in the third.

East Central answered with a 38-yard strike from Hosket to ex-Dollarway standout wide receiver Kabion Ento,

http://pbcommercial.com/sports/local/ento-murphy-help-lead-eccc-bowl-win

who went high above two Kilgore defenders to pull the ball down for the score and the 35-14 lead.

Bolfing would connect with Wood again on the Rangers next drive from nine-yards out to finish the third quarter scoring and pull Kilgore to within 35-21.

Hosket finished with 150 yards passing and two touchdowns. Murphy had four catches for 68 yards.

East Central finished the 2015 season with an 8-3 record, the program's best win-loss record since 1999.

The Warriors advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs, before losing to eventual state champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 on Oct. 31 in Senatobia. It was the Warriors first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.

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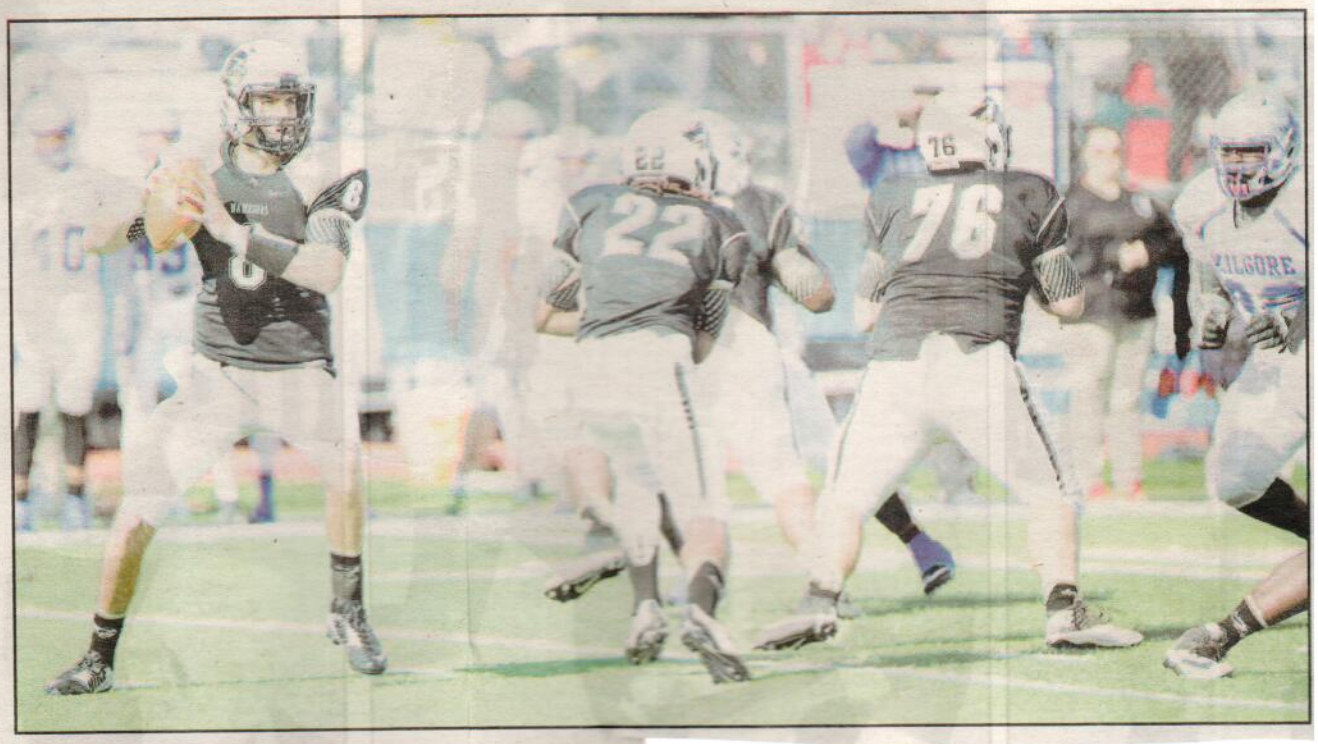
WEEK OF Dec. 6 2015

East Central claims bowl victory over Kilgore

FROM SCHOOL REPORTS



Hosket back for the pass for ECCC.

The No 15 East Central Community College Warriors turned three first quarter turnovers into points to build an early lead and set the pace in a 35-21 victory Saturday over the No. 20 Kilgore College Rangers in the 2015 C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl.

The game was played in the 10,000-seat Bulldawg Stadium in Copperas Cove, Texas.

East Central turned an interception and two fumbles into touchdowns in the first quarter to race to a 21-0 lead.

Sophomore safety Jaylon Lofton played a big part in the first two scores. The Forest High School product stopped Kilgore's first drive of the game with an interception in the end zone.

The Warrior offense took over from there and marched 80 yards in 13 plays, with freshman running back Tredarian Gamble giving East Central a 7-0 lead on a 15-yard scoring run.

Two plays later, on Kilgore's second offensive possession, Lofton picked up a Ranger fumble and rambled 15 yards to the end zone. With 6:15 remaining in the first quarter, East Central led 14-0.

On its ensuing possession, Kilgore again drove deep into Warrior territory to the three-yard line before losing another fumble. This one was scooped up by Warrior safety Austin Balthazor (Seminary High School) who raced 90 yards down the left sideline for East Central's third touchdown of the first quarter. Austin Garrett's (Meridian High School) third point after made the score 21-0.

Balthazor was named the game's Most Valuable Player. He also had six tackles to go with the interception.

The Rangers finally got on the scoreboard with 4:12 remaining in the first half on a 32-yard scamper by Martinez Syria, Kilgore's leading rusher and scorer on the season.

East Central took a 21-7 lead into the locker room. The two teams would combine for 28 points in the third quarter.

East Central took just four plays to score to open the second half scoring. Quarterback Jesse Hosket found wide receiver Devin McIntosh of Amory High School in the corner of the Rangers' end zone from 15 yards out to stretch the Warriors lead to 28-7 lead. The drive began with a 44-yard pass from Hosket to Henri Murphy to the Rangers' 12-yard line. Murphy is a freshman out of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark.

Kilgore closed the gap to 28-14 on a 20-yard toss from quarterback Josh Bolfing to tight end Jarod Wood on a second and goal play with 6:34 left in the third.

East Central

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CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

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Neshoba Democrat _____

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answered with a 38-yard strike from Hosket to wide receiver Kabion Ento, who went high above two Kilgore defenders to pull the ball down for the score and the 35-14 lead. Ento also hails from Dollarway High School.

Bolfing would connect with Wood again on the Rangers next drive from nine-yards out to finish the third quarter scoring and pull Kilgore to within 35-21. Neither team was able to score in the fourth quarter.

Hosket, a product of French Camp Academy, finished with 150 yards passing and two touchdowns. Gamble, out of Oxford High School (Ala.), finished with 127 yards and one touchdown. Murphy had four catches for 68 yards. Freshman defensive back Isiah Thomas out of Madison Central High School also had an interception for the Warriors.

East Central finished the 2015 season with an 8-3 record, the best won-loss record since 1999. The Warriors advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs, before losing to eventual state champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 on Oct. 31 in Senatobia. It was the Warriors first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.

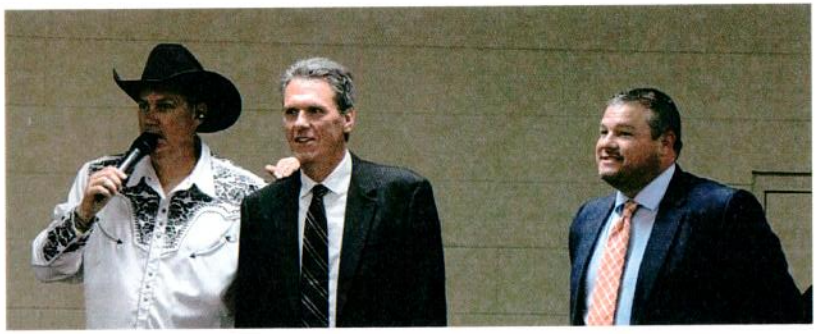
The HOT Bowl was East Central's first bowl game since 1996, and only the fourth bowl game since the Warriors began playing football in 1928. Only 14 community college football teams in the nation were invited to bowl games this year.

Kilgore finished the season with a 7-5 record. The Rangers were Southwest Junior College Football Conference Champions. Kilgore, which has participated in three previous HOT Bowls, is a two-time national champion.

WEEK OF DEC 4, 2015

Heart of Texas Bowl kicks off pre-game activities for NJCAA teams

December 4, 2015
7:53 PM MST



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8 photos

Photos from the welcoming barbecue for East Central Community College and Kilgore College at the Heart of Texs Bowl.
Photo by Darla Tamulitis-La Vita Loca Photography, Used with Permission.

The Hoffpauir Auto Group C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl kicked off activities on Friday, December 4, 2015 in Copperas Cove, Texas will a barbecue, country music, and speeches by the head coaches of the two junior college participants; East Central Community College from Mississippi and Kilgore College from Texas. The event was held at the Copperas Cove Community Center and featured the music of Pat Waters and Chainlink.

Master of Ceremonies Joe Lombardi introduced the presidents of both colleges and their head coaches, in addition to various administrators and local community and bowl game leaders. Bowl director Vance McAnally spoke about the history of the bowl and regaled those in attendance with both humorous and meaningful insights.

The highlight of the afternoon affair was the bowl tradition of each school's head coaches singing with the band. ECCC head coach Ken Karcher and Kilgore College head coach J.J. Eckert were joined by lead singer Pat Waters in a spirited and unique rendition of the George Strait hit "All My Ex's Live in Texas."

Karcher, in his first year as the head coach at ECCC, led the No. 15 Warriors to a 7-3 record and a place in the HOT Bowl. He played his college ball at both Norte Dame and Tulane and continued his football playing career in the NFL with the Denver Broncos, where he was the backup quarterback for John Elway in Super Bowl XXII in 1988,

Eckert is in his ninth season as the head coach of the Rangers, who went 7-4 in 2015. He was the offensive coordinator when Kilgore won the SWJCFC championships on 2001 and 2004. His current record at Kilgore is 37-34. The game will kick off at 11 a.m. CST at Bulldawg Stadium in Copperas Cove.

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WEEK OF Dec 6

In brief

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ECCC wins Heart of Texas Bowl

The 15th-ranked East Central Warriors returned two fumbles for touchdowns in the first quarter and went on to beat No. 20 Kilgore (Texas) 35-21 in the Heart of Texas Bowl on Saturday in Copperas Cove, Texas. It was ECCC's first bowl game since 1996 and fourth in program history. **Jaylon Lofton** had an interception in the end zone that led to ECCC's first touchdown and returned a fumble 15 yards for another. **Austin Balthazor** returned a fumble 90 yards for a TD as East Central (8-3) led 21-0 after the first quarter. ECCC's lead never got below 14 points the rest of the way. **Tredarian Gamble** rushed for 127 yards and a TD, and **Jesse Hosket** was 11 of 20 passing for 150 yards and two touchdowns. **Martinez Syria** led the Rangers with 121 rushing yards and a touchdown. **Josh Bolfing** completed 25 of 34 passes for 212 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions for Kilgore (7-5).

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER X

C.H.A.M.P.S. HEART OF TEXAS BOWL: NO. 15 ECCC 35, NO. 20 KILGORE (TEXAS) 21

Warriors overpower Kilgore in fin

By ECCC sports information

COPPERAS COVE, Texas — The No 15 East Central Community College Warriors turned three first quarter turnovers into points to build an early lead and set the pace in a 35-21 victory Saturday over the No. 20 Kilgore College Rangers in the 2015 C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl.

The game was played in the 10,000-seat Bulldawg Stadium.

East Central turned an interception and two fumbles into touchdowns in the first quarter to race to a 21-0 lead.

Sophomore safety Jaylon Lofton played a big part in the first two scores. The Forest High School product stopped Kilgore's first drive of the game with an interception in the end zone.

The Warrior offense took over from there and marched 80 yards in 13 plays, with freshman running back Tredarian Gamble giving East Central a 7-0 lead on a 15-yard scoring run.

Two plays later, on Kilgore's second offensive possession, Lofton picked up a Ranger fumble and rambled 15 yards to the end zone. With 6:15 remaining in the first quarter, East Central led 14-0.

On its ensuing possession, Kilgore again drove deep into

See Warriors, 12A

The East Central Community College Warriors pose for a photo C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl trophy following their 35-21 win o (Texas) College Rangers Saturday in Copperas Cove, Texas.

Warriors

From 10A

Warrior territory to the three-yard line before losing another fumble. This one was scooped up by Warrior safety Austin Balthazor (Seminary High School) who raced 90 yards down the left sideline for East Central's third touchdown of the first quarter. Austin Garrett's (Meridian High School) third point after made the score 21-0.

Balthazor was named the game's Most Valuable Player. He also had six tackles to go with the interception.

The Rangers finally got on the scoreboard with 4:12 remaining in the first half on a 32-yard scamper by Martinez Syria, Kilgore's leading rusher and scorer on the season.

East Central took a 21-7 lead into the locker room.

The two teams would combine for 28 points in the third quarter.

East Central took just four plays to score to open the second half scoring. Quarterback Jesse Hosket found wide receiver Devin McIntosh of Amory High School in the corner of the Rangers' end zone from 15 yards out to stretch the Warriors lead to 28-7 lead. The drive began with a 44-yard pass from Hosket to Henri Murphy to the Rangers' 12-yard line. Murphy is a freshman out of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark.

Kilgore closed the gap to 28-14 on a 20-yard toss from quarterback Josh Bolfing to tight end Jarod Wood on a second and goal play with 6:34 left in the third.

East Central answered with a 38-yard strike from Hosket to wide receiver Kabion Ento, who went high above two Kilgore defenders to pull the ball down for the score and the 35-14 lead. Ento also hails from Dollarway High School.

Bolfing would connect with Wood again on the Rangers next drive from nine-yards out to finish the third quarter scoring and pull Kilgore to within 35-21.

Neither team was able to score in the fourth quarter.

Hosket, a product of French Camp Academy, finished with 150 yards passing and two touchdowns. Gamble, out of Oxford High School (Ala.), finished with 127 yards and one touchdown.

Murphy had four catches for 68 yards. Freshman defensive back Isiah Thomas out of Madison Central High School also had an interception for the Warriors.

East Central finished the 2015 season with an 8-3 record, the best won-loss record since 1999. The Warriors advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs, before losing to eventual state champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 on Oct. 31 in Senatobia. It was the Warriors first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.

The HOT Bowl was East Central's first bowl game since 1996, and only the fourth bowl game since the Warriors began playing football in 1928. Only 14 community college football teams in the nation were invited to bowl games this year.

CARTHAGINIAN

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR

OCRAT

pg. 2

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of Dec. 6, 2015

East Central got the momentum early when Tremaine Gamble gave the Warriors (8- 3) a 7-0 lead on a 15-yard run, with 7:03 left in the opening quarter.

Like a boxer, the Warriors landed an uppercut on KC when a Rangers' fumble was picked up by EC corner Jaylon Lofton and returned 15 yards for a second Warriors' touchdown. And still in the first quarter, as the Rangers were trying to gather themselves, another EC defensive back, Austin Balthazor, grabbed another Ranger fumble and returned it, this time for a 90-yard touchdown.

Down 21-0 before the second quarter even started, KC began to claw its way back. Running back Martinez Syria, who led the Rangers in rushing yards both in the bowl game and for the season, allowed the team to breathe a little with a 32-yard touchdown run with four minutes left in the half.

EC, up 21-7 as the third quarter started, immediately extended that lead to 28-7 on a 16-yard pass from Jesse Hoskett to Devin McIntosh.

The Rangers cut the lead in half, down to 28-14, on a 19-yard touchdown catch by tight end Jarod Wood, the former Kilgore High School standout, from Josh Bolfing with 6:34 left in the third quarter.

But just less than two minutes later, EC landed what turned out to be the knockout blow, a 38-yard touchdown pass from Hoskett to Kabion Ento with 4:48 left to extend the lead back to three scores.

KC did get another score, from the same duo: Wood scored on a 9-yard pass from Bolfing with 1:49 left in the third, and neither team managed a fourth-quarter score.

KC had 466 yards of total offense, almost twice that of EC (287). The Rangers had 26 first downs, were 5-of-12 in third down attempts, and ran 77 offensive plays to EC's 55.

KC also had 249 rushing yards, led by Syria, who finished with 121 yards and the score on 16 carries, about 7 ½ yards per carry. Damion Collins had 90 yards on 14 carries.

Bolfing finished 25-of-34 for 212 yards, the two scores to Wood and two interceptions. Wood had four catches for 44 yards. Barton had the MVP day, and Reshod Williams had three for 25 yards.

Kicker Troy Duran was 3-of-3 in extra point kicks, and punted four times, averaging 40 yards per punt. He did have a 53-yarder.

Two things that carried KC all season long, especially on the four-game winning streak, were sacks and interceptions. Those were largely absent against East Central.

The Rangers had one sack, notched by Louis Wings, and four tackles for loss: one each by Ladarrin Anthony (another former KHS player), Nigel Williams, Brelynd Goods and Fredarian Tompkins. KC had no interceptions.

EC had five sacks, and two interceptions, along with the two fumble recoveries for touchdowns.

The bowl game was KC's 20th in its illustrious football history. The Rangers are 11-9 in those games.

X other
www.kilgorenewsherald.com

WEEK OF Dec 6, 2015

Turnovers very costly in KC's Heart of Texas loss

By MITCH LUCAS

sports@kilgorenewsherald.com

LOOKING FOR ROOM -- Kilgore College tailback Damion Collins (15, left) looks for a hole as his offensive line blocks during Saturday's Heart of Texas Bowl at Copperas Cove. The Rangers came out on the short end, though, of a 35-21 contest against East Central (Mississippi). Below: the game's MVP, KC's Garrett Barton. Photos by MARVIN HILLHOUSE

It's a rare football performance when a team can overcome four or five turnovers in a game and still win.

Unfortunately for Kilgore College in last weekend's CHAMPS Heart of Texas Bowl, that didn't happen.

The Rangers, facing East Central (Miss.) in the bowl's 15th anniversary game (all in Copperas Cove, near Fort Hood), were in a 21-0 hole in the first quarter, thanks to turnovers that led directly to scores. KC made a game of it, but ultimately lost, 35-21, at Bulldawg Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Where's the story?

6 Points Mentioned

In spite of the loss, KC receiver Garrett Barton finished with the game's most valuable player award, making 10 catches for 86 yards in defeat.

The contest finished the season for the 7-5 Rangers, and also ended a four-game winning streak that included three of the Southwest Junior College Football Conference's best programs: Tyler Junior College, Trinity Valley Community College, and Navarro.

KC ran the table through their final regular-season games and through the two playoff games, winning the conference's playoff championship for the first time since 2004. A five-loss season doesn't normally include a conference title and a bowl appearance, but the 2015 campaign will go down as one of KC's best, and thanks in large part to coaching by J.J. Eckert and his staff.

Saturday morning, though, the Rangers found themselves under the gun early to the Warriors, visitors from the Mississippi conference who saw Christmas come early in the form of KC turnovers.

APPEARED IN:

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MERIDIAN STAR _____

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

Other X

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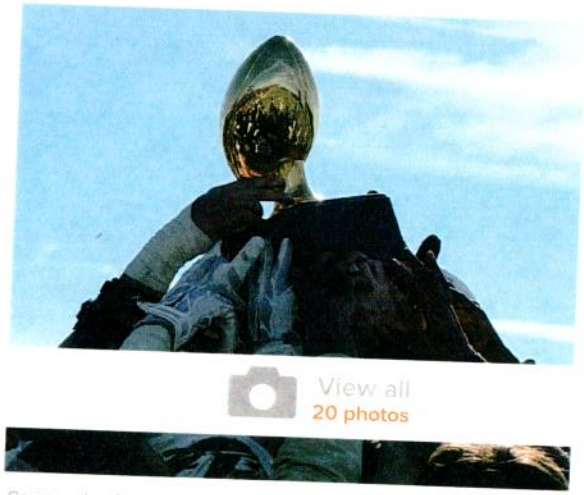
WEEK OF Dec 4, 2015

East Central Community College downs Kilgore Rangers to win Heart of Texas Bowl

December 5, 2015
7:43 PM MST



Game action from the 2015 Heart of Texas Bowl: East Central Community College vs. Kilgore College.
Photo by Darla Tamulitis-La Vita Loca Photography. Used with Permission.

Capitalizing on two fumbles, East Central Community College tallied 466 yards of total offense to down the Kilgore Rangers by the score of 35-21 to win the junior college game of the The Hoffpauir Auto Group C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl at Bulldawg Stadium in Copperas Cove, Texas on Saturday, December 5, 2015. With the win, the Warriors raised their season record 8-3 in their first bowl appearance in 19 years and their third since begin football play in 1928.

East Central took advantage of the two Kilgore fumbles in the first quarter to jump out to a 21-0 lead after 15 minutes of play. They scored their first touchdown at the 7:03 mark on a 15-yard run by wide receiver Tredarian Gamble. Their second two touchdowns came as the result of the fumbles; first with 6:14 left in the quarter. Defensive back Jaylon Lofton picked up the first fumble and romped 15 yards for the score. The third touchdown came with 12 seconds remaining in the quarter when an alert Austin Balthazor was in the right place at the right time. The strong safety picked up the loose ball and carried it 90 yards for the Warriors score. Kicker Aaron Garrett split the uprights for all three extra points.

Kilgore was finally able to find the end zone with 4:52 remaining in the first half. Tailback Martinez Syria capped a three-play, 45-yard drive with a 32-yard run for a touchdown. Troy Duran added the kicking extra point to make the score 21-7 in favor of ECCC at the half.

In the third quarter, both teams reached the end zone twice to close out the game scoring. The Warriors added two touchdowns on a 15-yard pass from Jesse Hosket to wide receiver Devin McIntosh at the 13:33 mark and a 38-yard pass from Hosket to wide receiver Kabion Ento with 4:48 left in the quarter. Duran added the kicking extra point on both scores. The Rangers added to their score on 20-yard pass from quarterback Josh Bolfing to tight end Jarod Wood at the 6:34 mark of the quarter. They closed out their scoring with a nine-yard pass from Bolfing to Wood with 1:49 left.

With his fumble recovery for a touchdown and six tackles in the game, Balthazor was selected at the game's Defensive Most Valuable Player. Ranger wide receiver Garrett Barton, with 10 receptions for 86 yards and two carries for 16 yards, was selected as the game's Offensive Most Valuable Game.

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ____
SCOTT COUNTY TIMES ____
WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ____
CLARION-LEDGER ____

CARTHAGINIAN ____
NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ____
SPIRIT OF MORTON ____
MERIDIAN STAR ____

examiner.com X

WEEK OF DEC 6, 2015

Sunday, December 06, 2015

Longview News-Journal

Kilgore College Bowl Preview

Dec. 5, 2015 at 12:06 a.m.

KILGORE (7-4) vs.EAST CENTRAL CC (7-3)

Time: 11 a.m. today

Stadium: Bulldawg Stadium, Copperas Cove

Coaches

Kilgore: J.J. Eckert

East Central: Ken Karcher

Last game: Kilgore 42, Navarro 28 (Southwest Junior College Football Conference championship game); Northwest Mississippi Community College 27, East Central 20 (Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges semifinals)

On the air: 105.3 FM and 1240 AM in Kilgore, 101.9 FM in Longview, 107.9 FM in Henderson; also www.kdokradio.com and the TuneIn Radio app; fans can also view the game by visiting www.foxsports.com/foxsportsgo on a desktop computer or by downloading the Fox Sports Go app in the Google Play store or the iTunes App Store from a mobile device

Players to watch

Kilgore: QB Jaylen Fails (55 of 81, 474 yards, 4 TD, 5 interceptions; 107 carries, 395 yards, 5 TD) ... QB Cameron Martin (98 of 168, 1,043 yards, 7 TD, 5 interceptions) ... RB Martinez Syria (166 carries, 755 yards, 10 TD; 23 catches, 309 yards, 1 TD) ... WR Garrett Barton (35 catches, 383 yards, 2 TD) ... WR Kyle McBride (21 catches, 166 yards) ... TE Jarod Wood (19 catches, 369 yards, 5 TD) ... PK Troy Duran (8-13 FG with long of 50; 27-28 PAT; 61 punts, 37.3 average, 11 inside 20) ... LB Dante Lovilotte (95 tackles, 4 sacks, 5 TFL, 3 interceptions) ... LB Jalen Porter (87 tackles) ... DE Ricci Simmons (85 tackles, 10 sacks, 5 TFL) ... LB Eric Harrell (81 tackles, 7 sacks, 9 TFL) ... DB Jerrell Sykes (67 tackles, 10 interceptions) ... DL Dequinton Osborne (61 tackles, 6 sacks, 17 TFL) ... DL Demontrai Lewis (48 tackles, 6 sacks)

East Central: WR Kabion Ento ... DL Derek Mahaffey ... QB Jesse Hosket ... LB Eric McPherson ... OL Eedie Houston

Did you know: Kilgore will be playing in the 20th bowl game in school history, the first since falling 47-36 to Northwest Mississippi in the inaugural Brazos Valley Bowl in 2013 at Texas A&M University's Kyle Field ... KC is 11-8 in previous bowl games, and the Rangers have played in the Heart of Texas Bowl twice – defeating Fort Scott (Kansas) 19-7 in 2006 and falling to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College 62-28 in 2007 ... Kilgore's defense came away with nine interceptions in two playoff games, five against Trinity Valley in the semifinals and four against Navarro in the SWJCFC title game, and the Rangers have 24 interceptions this season ... East Central is playing in a bowl game for the first time in 19 seasons and only the school's fourth bowl game in program history. The Warriors defeated Middle Georgia College (7-6) in the 1996 Huddle House Golden Isles Classic in Brunswick, Georgia ... Karcher, in his third season at East Central, served as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Eastern Michigan before landing at East Central. He played college football at Notre Dame, and was a backup quarterback on the Denver Broncos' 1988 Super Bowl team.

APPEA

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NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

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news-journal

WEEK OF November 29, 2015

Heart of Texas Bowl teams enjoy camaraderie, fellowship at banquet before today's game

BY DAVID A. BRYANT
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

COPPERAS COVE — 'Twas the night before the big game for junior college football athletes, and all through the Copperas Cove Civic Center, laughter was heard — especially when the team head coaches attempted to sing "All My Exes Live in Texas."

Junior college and NCAA Division II football teams competing in the 15th C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl gathered for a barbecue meal Friday in the spirit of friendly competition and fellowship.

Sponsored by Hoffpauir Auto Group, the pregame banquet featured entertainment from Pat Waters and Chainlink, guest speakers from the colleges and universities and, of course, the banquet tradition of head coaches battling it out karaoke-style to the cheers of their players.

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Head football coaches J.J. Eckert, left, of Kilgore Community College, and Ken Karcher, right, of East Central Community College, sing during the Heart of Texas Bowl banquet Friday at the Copperas Cove Civic Center.

"It's all done in the spirit of bringing everyone together — that's what football is all about," HOT Bowl Director Vance McAnally said. "You're battling out there, but you're also building relationships. This is our 15th year to have the bowl and I couldn't be more excited."

The East Central Commu-

PLEASE SEE **BANQUET, B6**

BANQUET: 6 bowl games at junior college level

FROM PAGE B1

nity College Warriors from Decatur, Miss., are scheduled to play the Kilgore Community College Rangers at 11 a.m. today at Bulldawg Stadium, followed at 6 p.m. by Arkansas Tech facing Eastern New Mexico University in the NCAA Division II game.

The HOT Bowl is one of only six bowl games held at the junior college level in the nation, McAnally said.

"It's a select few (who get to play). We're lucky, because between us and Mississippi, there is not a whole lot. Three of the bowls are in extreme-cold weather places," he said. "I'm extremely excited. These two conferences are a great matchup, and you see it in the play. It's great football."

Each of the colleges' head coach and athletic directors were given the opportunity to speak, telling a little bit about their teams, complimenting their opponents and reminding the athletes it will be their personal character and integrity that will get them through life.

"I challenged our young men to be a part of something bigger than themselves, a part of something bigger than the game of football," ECCC Head Coach Ken Karcher said. "As I try to tell our young men every day, we have a simple mission in our football program and it's this: We use football as a unique, educational tool to develop leaders of character as we equip them intellectually, physically, socially and spiritually so they in turn can use their gifts and talents to impact the culture they live in."

Kilgore Head Coach J.J. Eckert agreed, adding the opportunity to play in a bowl game that has lasted longer then a few years speaks volumes about the effort put into the game.

"A lot of times when you think of success, it's in terms of wins and losses. I've been fortunate to judge success by what guys are doing 10, even 20 years later," Eckert said. "(Seeing) guys that are 32, 33 years old who have great jobs, are vice presidents and successful that turned out to be everything you would expect from a student athlete. This is a great vehicle. There is so many things you can take from the game itself, but the life lessons that go along with it that you can apply long after football is over are some of the most important."

Cove Independent School District Superintendent Joe Burns welcomed the players

"We consider it an honor and a privilege to host you here in our community," Burns said. "I encourage you to remember that each and every one of you are a role model for someone. I want you to remember that not only today, but in life. Your college career and football may be over after this game — you may never see another playing field in your career. But someone will remember you for what you did in their life in a significant way. They will remember the difference you made for them."

WEEK OF 11/29/15

Warriors Bowl Game available on radio, live stream video

East Central Community College Warrior football fans unable to travel to Copperas Cove, Texas, for the 2015 C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl will be able to follow the action on radio and live stream video.

No. 15 ranked East Central will face No. 20 Kilgore College in the 2015 HOT Bowl on Saturday, Dec. 5, at Bulldawg Stadium in Copperas Cove. Kickoff is set for 11 a.m.

The game will be broadcast live on the radio at WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove." The radio broadcast will also be streamed online at www.kicks967.com.

High-definition live video streaming with audio will also be available at http://kicks96news.com/east-central-community-college-video-stream-page.

Links to the radio and live stream video also are on the ECCC website at www.eccc.edu.

Longtime Warrior play-by-play announcer Melvin Wooten and color analyst Gilbert Barham will call the action.

It will be East Central's first bowl appearance since 1996. The Warriors are 7-3 and advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs, before losing to eventual state champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 on Oct. 31 in Senatobia.

APPEARED IN:

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NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ____
SPIRIT OF MORTON X
MERIDIAN STAR ____
NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ____
SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X
WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ____
CLARION-LEDGER ____

WEEK OF 11/29/15

East Central Bowl game set for 11 a.m. Saturday

From school reports

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It will be East Central's first bowl appearance since 1996. The Warriors are 7-3 and advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs, before losing to eventual state champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 on Oct. 31 in Senatobia.

Kilgore (Texas) College is 7-4 overall and the 2015 Southwest Junior College Football Conference Champion.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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pg. 2

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of NOV. 29, 2015

36.8 yards per punt.

Defensively, sophomore linebacker Eric McPherson leads the Warriors in tackles (87). Austin Balthazor, a defensive back, leads the team with four interceptions. Backfield mate Jaylon Lofton leads with eight pass break-ups. Sophomore defensive lineman Jadarius Caesar has nine sacks and 10 tackles for loss, and the Warriors have 25 sacks as a team this season. They allow 16 points per game.

KC's defense has been a godsend for the Rangers, who've ridden turnovers to several wins this season. The Rangers allow 25 points a game in a very offensive-minded conference that featured three of the nation's top passing attacks in TJC, Trinity Valley and Navarro. As a team, the Rangers have 24 interceptions this season and 12 fumble recoveries. They have a staggering 51 sacks this year and 90 tackles for loss.

Sophomore linebacker Dante Lovilotte leads the team with 95 total tackles. Sophomore defensive end Ricci Simmons has 10 sacks, which leads the team, 85 total tackles, and five for loss. Sophomore linebacker Eric Harrell has seven sacks and nine tackles for loss, and defensive tackle DeQuinton Osborne and D-lineman Demontrai Lewis each have six sacks. Osborne has 17 tackkles for loss, Lewis 10, and Kilgore native and sophomore Ladarrin Anthony has 13.

Cornerback Jerrell Sykes has 10 interceptions and 17 pass break-ups. KC is allowing only 132 rushing yards and 199 passing yards per game.

Offensively, three quarterbacks often see action: Cameron Martin, Josh Bolfing and Jaylen Fails, who started the season at wide receiver. Martin is 98- of-168 for 1,043 yards, seven touchdowns and five interceptions. Fails is 55-of-81 for 474 yards, four touchdowns and five picks, and Bolfing, who got more playing time in the championship game against Navarro, is 30-of-48 for 411 yards, two touchdowns and four picks.

The Rangers' leading rusher is Martinez Syria, who has 755 yards and 10 touchdowns on 166 carries this year. Fails is second (395 yards).

Garrett Barton leads the team in catches (35, for 373 yards and two scores). Tight end Jarod Wood leads in touchdown catches (five) and is second in yardage (369). As a team, the Rangers average 11.6 yards per catch.

Kicker Troy Duran is 27-of- 28 in extra point attempts and is 8-of-13 in field goals, a long of 50 yards. He averages 37.3 yards per punt.

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications X

Kilgore newsherald.com

WEEK OF NOV. 29, 2015

KC faces East Central (Miss.) in bowl Saturday

20th-ranked Rangers take on Warriors in Copperas Cove's Heart of Texas Bowl

By MITCH LUCAS
sports@kilgorenewsherald.com

LOOKING TO CAP A CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR – Kilgore College's Jaylen Fails (7) and Martinez Syria (4) are among the players who will try to secure the eighth win in 2015 this Saturday, as KC faces East Central (Miss.) in the CHAMPS Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove. Kickoff is set for 11 a.m., and Manny Almanza, the voice of KC sports, will call the game. KC (7-4) is the SWJCFC (Texas) JUCO conference champion, and East Central is one of the best teams from Mississippi's conference. File photo by MARVIN HILLHOUSE

The Kilgore College Rangers will play the 20th bowl game in program history this Saturday, the 15th CHAMPS Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove.

The Rangers will face East Central (Mississippi) Community College in the 11 a.m. kickoff at Bulldawg Stadium, where Copperas Cove High School plays its games. It will be the Rangers' first bowl game since the 2012 Brazos Valley Bowl, and KC's third appearance in the Heart of Texas Bowl. The Rangers won the game in 2006, beating Fort Scott (Kan.), 19-7, but then lost the following season to Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Tickets are on sale through Friday here at the KC athletic department, in the student support building. KC keeps proceeds from the first 250 tickets sold. Reserved tickets are $20 each.

Where's the story?

6 Points Mentioned

The game can be seen using the Fox Sports Go! App, streamed live online, and heard locally via the efforts of the voice of KC sports, Manny Almanza, on KDOK 105.3-FM, online at kdokradio.com and the TuneIn Radio app.

The Rangers (7-4), coached by J.J. Eckert, are the Southwest Junior College Football Conference (the Texas JUCO conference) champions, having defeated Navarro, 42-28, in Corsicana on Nov. 7. It was KC's first SWJCFC trophy since the 2004 season, although the Rangers are regulars in the conference playoffs. KC, ranked 20th in the nation, has won four straight games dating back to Oct. 17, including wins over Tyler, Trinity Valley and Navarro.

East Central, located in Decatur, Miss., is ranked 15th in the current NJCAA poll. The Warriors are 7-3 and made the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges playoffs. The Warriors lost to topranked Northwest Mississippi in the first round, 27-20. East Central's other two losses this season were to Copiah Lincoln and to Gulf Coast.

On paper, it looks to be a fairly-even matchup. East Central's offense averages 31 yards a game, has 1,964 rushing yards this season and 1,650 passing yards. KC's offense averages 332 yards per game, has 1,734 rushing yards in 2015, and 1,928 passing yards.

East Central has won four of its last five, and has a dangerous return game, ranked eighth in the nation (25 yards per return). Quarterback Jesse Hosket is 137-of- 204 for 1,593 passing yards, 17 touchdowns and just one interception in 10 games played. The Warriors' leading rusher is Tredarian Gamble, who has 957 yards and 10 scores on 174 carries, averaging about 95 yards a game and 5.5 yards per carry. C

Hosket has a lot o has
21; and Henri Murpl

Kicker Aaron Garrett is almost perfect in extra points (34-of-36) but is 6-of-14 in field goal attempts, a long of just 36 yards. He does average

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

www.kilgorenewsherald.com

WEEK OF NOV 22, 2015

East Central accepts bid to Heart of Texas Bowl

From school reports

East Central Community College was extended and accepted an invitation to participate in the 2015 C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, in Copperas Cove, Texas. It will be the college's first bowl game in 19 years.

The No. 15 ranked East Central Warriors will face the Kilgore College Rangers, champions of the Southwest Junior College Football Conference (SWJCFC). The game will be played in the 10,000-seat Bulldawg Stadium, home of the Copperas Cove High School football team. Kickoff is set for 11 a.m.

The invitation was extended to ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart by HOT Bowl Director Vance McNally at Noon today, the earliest a bowl bid could be extended according to National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) bowl guidelines. Stewart and ECCC head football coach Ken Karcher informed the team at a 2:30 p.m. meeting.

Only 14 community college football teams in the nation were invited to bowl games this year.

"We proudly accept the invitation to participate in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl on December 5," said Stewart upon receiving the bowl invitation. "This is a tremendous reward for our football team, and a wonderful opportunity for our college and our fans.

"The HOT Bowl is nationally recognized not only for its hospitality, class organization, and high level of play on the field, but also as a top philanthropic bowl game that raises funds to help educate youth about the dangers of the abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol. We look forward to representing East Central Community College, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, and the state of Mississippi with excellence and class both on and off the field."

East Central Community College has only participated in three bowl games since it began playing football in 1928, the most recent a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia College in the 1996 Huddle House Golden Isles Classic in Brunswick, Ga.

East Central finished the 2015 season with a 7-3 record, the best won-loss record since 1999. The Warriors advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 MACJC state playoffs, before losing to eventual state champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 on Oct. 31 in Senatobia. It was the Warriors' first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.

Kilgore College out of Kilgore, Texas, is 7-4 overall after defeating Navarro College 42-28 in the SWJCFC championship game Nov. 7. Kilgore, which has participated in three previous HOT Bowls, currently is ranked No. 20 in the latest NJCAA national football poll and is a two-time national champion.

Karcher, in his third season as the East Central head coach, said that the Warriors are excited about the bowl trip, and looking to bring a championship back to Decatur.

"There are only seven community college bowl games in the nation, and for East Central Community College to be in one of them is a testament to the tremendous strides we have made as a football program the past three years," noted Karcher. "It's also a testament to the dedication and hard work of the young men on our team and our coaches. It will be a tremendous challenge against a Kilgore team that won its conference in a powerful football league, and while I want our players to enjoy this reward, we are going to Texas with every intention of bringing home the bowl championship."

The East Central Wall O' Sound Marching Band and the Warrior Cheerleaders will also be making the trip to Copperas Cove.

East Central is offering bowl packages that will include round-trip bus transportation from Decatur to Copperas Cove, one night's hotel accommodation, a ticket to the game, and transportation from the hotel to the game.

For information on the bowl packages, visit www.eccc.edu/store. There also will be online options to purchase individual bowl game tickets and/or tickets to the bowl banquet on Friday evening, Dec. 4, for those who will provide their own accommodations and transportation to Copperas Cove. The deadline for reservations is Noon on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

For additional information on the packages, call 601-635-6340. East Central Community College will be observing the Thanksgiving Holidays during the week of Nov. 23 to Nov. 29. During that time, call 601-616-1088.

The Heart of Texas Bowl is sponsored by C.H.A.M.P.S. Communities Helping Americans Mature Progress and Succeed, a school-based program aimed at educating students about the dangers of the abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol.

It will mark the fourth time that an MACJC football team has played in the HOT Bowl.

For additional information on the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl, visit www.heartoftexasbowl.com.

AF CA NE SF ME

WEEK OF Nov 15, 2015

HOT Bowl a big boost to Central Texas community

Jordan Mason | Herald staff writer | Posted: Thursday, November 19, 2015 8:58 pm

Fourteen years ago, the CHAMPS Heart of Texas Bowl made its debut as an opportunity for junior college players to gain exposure.

Now, the games — there are two of them now — are far bigger than that in terms of reach.

"We hope that it's a blessing to our Central Texas community," Copperas Cove head football coach and creator Jack Welch said, "not just Copperas Cove but Copperas Cove-Killeen greater area."

Indeed, the HOT Bowl will have already affected local students before No. 15 East Central Community College and Kilgore College square off Dec. 5 in the first of two games at Bulldawg Stadium.

For one, each of the participating schools will be part of an assembly at local schools to speak out against the abuse of alcohol and drugs and teen bullying.

The games offer plenty to look forward to for local communities — in terms of revenue and, of course, good football — but for Welch, the focus remains raising awareness on subjects that affect the community off the field.

"Playing football is the gift — that's the game, that's the fun," Welch said. "But we always want to put that out there because we want to help our society.

"We want to help our community, and mostly our young people."

After plenty of prodding from fellow coaches, adding a Division II game to the slate four years ago only enhanced the impact of the weekend in terms of revenue and reach. This year, Eastern New Mexico and Arkansas Tech will play in the Division II game.

Yet Welch said the weekend may not be done growing, as he is already hearing calls for the next new addition to the HOT Bowl.

"There might be an avenue for a (college) playoff game," Welch said. "Because our name is out there, I'm getting calls now."

And with the potential for future growth, and regular community participation now, the HOT Bowl figures to continue to be a unique and fulfilling experience for the local community — not just the city that hosts it.

"For not just Copperas Cove, but for Central Texas, I think it's an opportunity," Welch said. "When you have a college football team come in, especially from outside, it kind of raises interest.

"There's a lot of people, I think, that like college football — that like football in general. And it gives us an avenue of watching something special — the bowl game is something special."

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____ SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____ WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____ CLARION-LEDGER _____

Kdhnews.com

WEEK OF 11/15/15

NJCAA Teams Added To Bowl Game

By Ronald Oswalt Like 18 Tweet 0 G+1 0 Updat

COPPERAS COVE, TX – The bowl committee today released the NJCAA teams to play on December 5th at 11:00 a.m. at Bulldawg Stadium. Representing the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XII will be the Texas Champion Kilgore College Rangers as they will matchup against the Warriors from East Central Community College in Mississippi.

The Kilgore College Rangers fought through early-season adversity to come out on top, winning the Southwestern Junior College Football Conference Championship game Nov. 7 against Navarro College, 42-28.

It was the first time since 2004 that KC has won the championship game. Kilgore College improved to 7-4 on the season and a No.20 national ranking as they enter the bowl game.

Kilgore College Head Coach J.J. Eckert said, "We're thrilled to have been selected to compete in this year's C.H.A.M.P.S. HOT Bowl. It's a true testament to the hard work of our players and coaches this season to achieve a bowl bid. We are excited to face the Warriors and look forward to a competitive football game."

The Warriors enter the game with a 7-3 mark on the season and a No. 15 national ranking. Most recently, ten members of the East Central Community College Warrior football team received postseason honors today from the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the National Junior College Athletic Association, and Head Coach Ken Karcher

http://heartoftexasbowl.com/2015/11/17/njcaa-teams-added-to-bowl-game/

APPEARED IN:

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heartoftexasbowl.com X

pg. 2

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of 11/15/15

was selected as the MACJC South Division Coach of the Year.

Four Warriors were named MACJC First Team All-State and six were named MACJC Second Team All-State. Two Warriors were included on the NJCAA All-Region 23 Team.

Karcher, in his third year as head coach at East Central, led the Warriors to a 7-3 record and a berth in the semifinals of the MACJC state playoffs. It was East Central's first playoff appearance since 2001 and the best won-loss record since 1999. East Central finished the season in second place in the MACJC South Division and lost to No. 1 ranked and eventual state champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 in the state semifinals.

Karcher added, "We are very excited to have received an offer to play in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl in Texas. This is a great opportunity for our players, staff and program as we continue building a first class program that is committed to excellence. This will be a great experience for our players. We look forward to competing against a great program like Kilgore College."

About:

Mission: To create a celebration of the culture, heritage and football tradition of the Lone Star State.

Our vision is to create a thrilling fan experience, deliver a memorable conference, school and athlete experience, positively impact our charity partners and establish the game as one of the best in the Nation!!! A GAME AS BIG AS TEXAS!

The Heart of Texas Bowl features two major bowl games each year in December at Bulldawg Stadium in Copperas Cove Texas. These highly prestigious bowls match two top junior colleges from the National Junior College Athletic Association with the second bowl game pitting two top four year schools from the National Collegiate Athletic Association Div. II, one of these from the Lone Star Conference playing another top national team.

A team from the NJCAA Texas region and the Lone Star Conference are guaranteed bids.

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For more information on the Heart of Texas Bowl visit the Web at http://www.heartoftexasbowl.com or Facebook http://www.facebook.com/heartoftexasbowl or Twitter athttp://twitter.com/heartoftxbowl

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WEEK OF 11/15/15

ECCC postpones Warrior Wonderland

Special to The Star

The second annual East Central Community College Warrior Wonderland, originally scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4, on the Decatur campus will not be held as planned this year so that the college community can devote its full support to the Warrior football team at the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove, Texas.

East Central accepted an invitation this week to play in the postseason football bowl game, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. East Central will face Southwest Junior College Football Conference Champion Kilgore College out of Kilgore, Texas, in the contest.

Only 14 community college football teams in the nation were invited to bowl games this year.

East Central Community College has only participated in three bowl games since it began playing football in 1928, the most recent a 7-6 win over Middle Georgia College in the 1996 Huddle House Golden Isles Classic in Brunswick, Ga.

East Central President Dr. Billy Stewart said that the decision not to hold Warrior Wonderland this year was difficult, but that the football team, coaches, band members, and cheerleaders deserved the support of the entire campus community and that those fans who supported the team throughout the season deserved the opportunity to attend the game.

He said an event will be planned on campus during the spring of 2016 so that the college can treat the local communities to a day or evening of fun, food, and fellowship at East Central Community College.

"A lot of people work extremely hard in many areas at East Central Community College to achieve student success and this includes athletics," said Stewart. "Being one of 14 schools in the entire nation invited to a bowl game is a reward for that hard work. The football team deserves to be rewarded, but this is more than just about the student-athletes. Our band, our cheerleaders, and our athletic administration and coaches put in hundreds of hours of work during the football season to support our team and entertain our fans. They deserve the opportunity to attend this game, as do our students, faculty, staff, and fans who supported us at record levels this year both at our home games and also on the road.

"Everything we do at East Central Community College is done the EC Way—Excellence with Class, and unfortunately we logistically can't do both events at the same time and maintain that expectation of excellence and class.

Stewart said last year's highly successful inaugural Warrior Wonderland was held right after the Decatur Christmas Parade and included fireworks, music by East Central performing groups and others,photos with Santa, bounce houses and carnival rides, movies, a nativity scene, food and drink, and various specialty booths set up by campus clubs and organizations.

"Our plan is for this to be an annual event to bring the college and our local communities together to celebrate Christmas," Stewart said. "We have every intention of hosting our second Warrior Wonderland in December 2016 and to do so with the class and excellence that our communities expect and deserve."

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of 11/22/15

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star X

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

at ECCC

"It's been different for me, but it's good playing a new position," Nix said. "They're just trying to get me the ball in different ways. Next year, I'll play both."

During his recruitment as a senior at West Lauderdale last year, Nix made the decision to trust Warriors coach Ken Karcher when Karcher told him better days were ahead for ECCC football. So far, Karcher's promises seem to be coming to fruition.

"It was a big decision for me and my family," Nix said. "One thing that made me buy in was the coaches weren't just selling winning, but making you a better player — not just for East Central, but for wherever they send you (after graduating). He told me we would win. He didn't know how soon, but he did say we would win."

And when teams are winning, players are much more upbeat and prone to buy in.

"When you're on a successful

See Nix on page B2

WEEK OF 11/22/15

Nix in right place

By Drew Kerekes
dkerekes@themeridianstar.com

Photo courtesy of ECCC

East Central Community College freshman wide receiver Noah Nix of West Lauderdale High School hauls in a 19-yard scoring toss from sophomore QB Jesse Hosket against Holmes.

Noah Nix signed on to play at East Central Community College at just the right time, it would seem.

A running back in high school, Nix's move to receiver has been a good adjustment, the former West Lauderdale High School standout said. Nix played in all 10 games for the Warriors during the regular season, hauling in six receptions for 70 yards and two touchdowns while splitting time with five other receivers.

The Warriors, meanwhile, earned their first bowl invitation since 1996 by going 7-3 this fall, making an appearance in the MACJC state semifinal, and will face Kilgore College in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl Dec. 5 in Copperas Cove, Texas. While ECCC hadn't had much success in football throughout recent seasons, Nix said things are finally looking up — and he's just glad to be a part of the turnaround.

Bowl bound

What: C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl
When: Saturday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m.
Where: Copperas Cove, Texas
Who: East Central Community College (7-3) vs. Kilgore College (7-4)
Also: East Central is offering bowl packages that will include round-trip bus transportation from Decatur to Copperas Cove, one night's hotel accommodation, a ticket to the game, and transportation from the hotel to the game. For information on the bowl packages, visit www.eccc.edu/store.

"This team, we have some great players, as far as talent goes," Nix said. "But the biggest thing that's changed the program is we have a group of guys that have bought in and want to win. Every week we work hard and buy into what the coaches say. When we put together the talent and hard work, we're pretty good."

Nix mostly lined up in the slot this fall, though he moved to the outside some as well as the season went on. Next season, Nix said he will likely get some carries as a running back as well.

NIX from page B1

team, if you make a mistake, there is always someone there who will bring you up and encourage you," Nix said. "It brings a lot of people together. It has an effect on the team and the culture around you."

Part of Nix's new life at ECCC is adjusting to college, both on and off the field.

"It's been pretty good," Nix said. "It's a lot different, as far as waking up and going to straight to school goes. Usually you go straight to meetings all day. But it's a really good experience.

"I'd say the biggest difference (in football) is the athleticism. There aren't some schools that just aren't good — everyone has some sort of talent or player that's good. Every week, you have to come focused and have that want to. You have to be at your best each game."

Looking ahead to Kilgore next weekend, Nix said the Warriors' offensive players are expecting a lot of man coverage and blitzing, and Nix feels ECCC has some of the best receivers around when it comes to beating man coverage. Long-term, Nix said he already has goals in mind for his sophomore year in Decatur.

"I just want to continue to win," Nix said. "Once we get to the semifinals, I want to win that, then win a state championship. I just want us to continue to make plays and do what we're supposed to do."

Nix is the son of Crystal and Robert Nix.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____
NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____
SPIRIT OF MORTON _____
MERIDIAN STAR X
NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____
SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____
WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____
CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF NOV. 8, 2015

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN

NEWTON COUNTY TIMES X

SPIRIT OF MORTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

MERIDIAN STAR

OBA DEMOCRAT X

Ten East Central Warriors, coach Karcher take MACJC honors

From school reports

Ten members of the East Central Community College Warrior football team received postseason honors today from the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the National Junior College Athletic Association, and Head Coach Ken Karcher was selected as the MACJC South Division Coach of the Year.

Four Warriors were named MACJC First Team All-State and six were named MACJC Second Team All-State. Two Warriors were included on the NJCAA All-Region 23 Team.

Karcher, in his third year as head coach at East Central, led the Warriors to a 7-3 record and a berth in the semifinals of the MACJC state playoffs. It was East Central's first playoff appearance since 2001 and the best won-loss record since 1999. East Central finished the season in second place in the MACJC South Division and lost to No. 1 ranked and eventual state champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 in the state semifinals.

Wide receiver Kabion Ento, a sophomore from Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., and defensive lineman Derek Mahaffey, a sophomore from Anniston, Ala., and Oxford High School were named to the NJCAA All-Region 23 Team.

Named MACJC First Team All-State Offense were Ento and quarterback Jesse Hosket, a sophomore from French Camp Academy.

Named to the MACJC First Team All-State Defense were Mahaffey and linebacker Eric McPherson, a sophomore from Jim Hill High School in Jackson.

Named to the MACJC Second Team All-State Offense were lineman Eddie Houston, a sophomore from Newton High School; lineman Hunter Soileau, a sophomore from Hattiesburg and Forrest County High School; running back Tredarian Gamble, a freshman from Lincoln (Ala.) and Oxford High School; and tight end Jordan Thomas, a sophomore from Sumrall High School.

Named to the MACJC Second Team All-State Defense were defensive back Jaylon Lofton, a sophomore from Forest High School, and safety Austin Balthazor, a sophomore from Collins and Seminary High School.

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI RALLIES PAST EAST CENTRAL

BRIAN SCOTT RIPPEE
CLARION-LEDGER CORRESPONDENT

The rain came down steadily in Senatobia on Saturday, and it made for a wet and soggy contest between Northwest and East Central in a MACJC football semifinal game.

It was a game that featured four lead changes and several momentum swings as Northwest was able to outlast the Warriors, 27-20.

"We knew with the weather being like it was, and the field conditions like they were, that it was going to be a slugfest," Northwest head coach Jack Wright said "We worked on some things with a wet ball and I think it paid off."

After a Northwest scored a field goal on its opening drive, East Central put together back-to-back scoring drives of 58 and 61 yards, respectively, to take a 14-3 early in the second quarter. The Warriors were able to establish the running game early, rushing for 113 yards on 26 carries in the first half. Tredarian Campbell carried the majority of the load, compiling 19 carries for 85 yards and a touchdown by halftime. Campbell finished with 31 carries for 115 yards and a touchdown.

East Central looked as if it would take a two-score lead into the half, but a Jesse Hosket fumbled snap was recovered by Northwest at the East Central 20-yard line with less than two minutes to play in the half. The Rangers capitalized when Gardner Minshew hit Maquisian Chapman on a 5-yard slant route for a touchdown with just three seconds left in the half, making it 14-10 at the break.

The Rangers picked up right where they left off in the first half. After forcing an East Central three and out, Minshew hit Jacob McCrary on a 41-yard touchdown pass that gave Northwest the lead, 17-14, just three minutes into the second half.

"Earlier we ran this route underneath and the safety sort of jumped it," Minshew said. "So we ended up tagging a post right there, and it worked just like we had expected. We got the safety to bite down and Jacob beat his man one-on-one."

After Northwest added a field goal to take a six-point lead, Henri Murphy returned the ensuing kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown. A missed extra-point attempt tied the game at 20-20 midway through the third quarter. That would be the score for the next 16 minutes of play.

Northwest ended the scoring drought and regained the lead with just over six minutes to play in the game after an 11-play, 80-yard drive resulted in six points when Minshew found Chapman on a 9-yard strike.

When the rain subsided, Minshew hit his stride in the second half, going 10 of 14 for 98 yards and two touchdowns. For the game, Minshew threw for 168 yards and three touchdowns and no turnovers.

BILL BARKSDALE

Northwest Community College running back Justin Crawford (3) rushed for 110 yards in a 27-20 victory over East Central Community College.

"I went to our guys and I told them 'the rain is done, no more excuses.' We got what we wanted and we really hit our stride in the second half," Minshew said.

The Rangers put the game in the hands of their defense after that, who held the East Central offense in check over the final minutes. The Northwest defense did not allow an offensive touchdown in the second half, and it is a big reason why the Rangers are advancing to the state championship next week.

"They were amazing," Minshew said "I Say all the time that we practice against the best defense in the state, and they really proved it."

East Central had success running the ball in the first half, but were held to just 24 yards on the ground in the second half.

"Our defensive staff always does a really good job at halftime with adjusting," Wright said " Our defensive front and our linebackers really stepped up."

Mississippi Gulf Coast 49, Itawamba 17: At Perkinston, the Bulldogs (8-2) fell behind early and then rolled up four touchdowns in the second quarter to eliminate the Indians (6-4) from the MACJC playoffs.

WEEK OF NOV 1, 2015

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WEEK OF NOV 1, 2015

Rangers rally past East Central to advance to MACJC title game

Published 12:01 pm Monday, November 2, 2015

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SENATOBIA — Down 11 in the first half in Saturday's MACJC football semifinal game against 17th-ranked East Central, No. 2 Northwest Mississippi Community College outscored the Warriors 24-6 down the stretch and held them to just 67 yards in the second half to grind out a 27-20 win and advance to the championship game.

It's been quite a turnaround for Jack Wright and the Rangers, inheriting a 1-8 program in 2013 on three years probation by the MACJC, and two years later, starting off 9-1 and ranked second in the NJCAA with four Top 20 wins.

NWCC snapped an eight-game losing streak in the state playoffs and will play in its first MACJC Championship game since 1999 – the same year of their last conference championship. East Central ended a great season at 7-3.

It was East Central, however, who got out to a fast start on Saturday, jumping out to a 14-3 lead.

After NWCC had to settle for a Jim Speights 23-yard field goal on its opening drive, the Warriors drove 58 yards in 14 plays, capped off by Jesse Hosket's 13-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Thomas, to make it 7-3.

The Warriors went right back to work on their second possession, feeding Tredarian Gamble and Mikell Daniels, who took it down to the 1-yard line before Gamble punched it in for a 14-3 lead.

NWCC caught a break just before halftime to pull within 14-10 at the break, with Hosket mishandling a snap and fumbling it at the ECCC 20-yard line. Six plays later, Gardner Minshew hit Marquisian Chapman for a 5-yard touchdown with 3 seconds left on the clock.

NWCC's defense was the difference in the second half, forcing four straight East Central punts and blocking a field goal to keep the Warriors off the board.

Minshew and the Rangers scored 17 straight to pull ahead 20-14 with 7:06 left in the third quarter, with the freshman hitting Jacob McCrary for a 41-yard score and Speights connecting on a record-breaking 28-yard field goal.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

OTHER X

www.oxfordeagle.com

NOV 1, 2015

WEEK OF

MACC PLAYOFFS: NO. 17 EAST CENTRAL 20, NO. 2 NORTHWEST 27

Warriors fall in state semifinals on late

By ECCC sports information

It took a fourth quarter touchdown for the No. 2 ranked Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers to put away a determined East Central Community College Warrior football team today and earn a 27-20 win in the semifinals of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs. The game was played on a rainy and windy afternoon at Bobby Franklin Field in Senatobia.

No. 17 East Central finished the season 7-3, the best won-loss record for the Warriors since 1999. It was the Warriors first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.

Northwest improved to 9-1 overall and will face Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in the state finals Nov. 7.

Northwest would get on the scoreboard first, taking the opening kickoff and driving to the East Central six-yard line, before the Warrior defense stiffened and held the Rangers to a 23-yard field goal and a 3-0 lead.

East Central took the lead on its first possession of the game on a 58-yard drive that ended with a 12-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jesse Hosket out of French Camp Academy to tight end Jordan Thomas. The Warriors converted two fourth downs on the 14-play drive. The extra point by Aaron Garrett, a product of Meridian High School, gave East Central an early 7-3 lead. Thomas, out of Sumrall High School, committed on Friday to play at Mississippi State next season.

The Warriors extended the lead to 14-3 on their second possession of the game on a one-yard run by freshman running back Tredarian Gamble out of Oxford High School (Ala.). East Central covered 61 yards in nine plays, mostly on the ground.

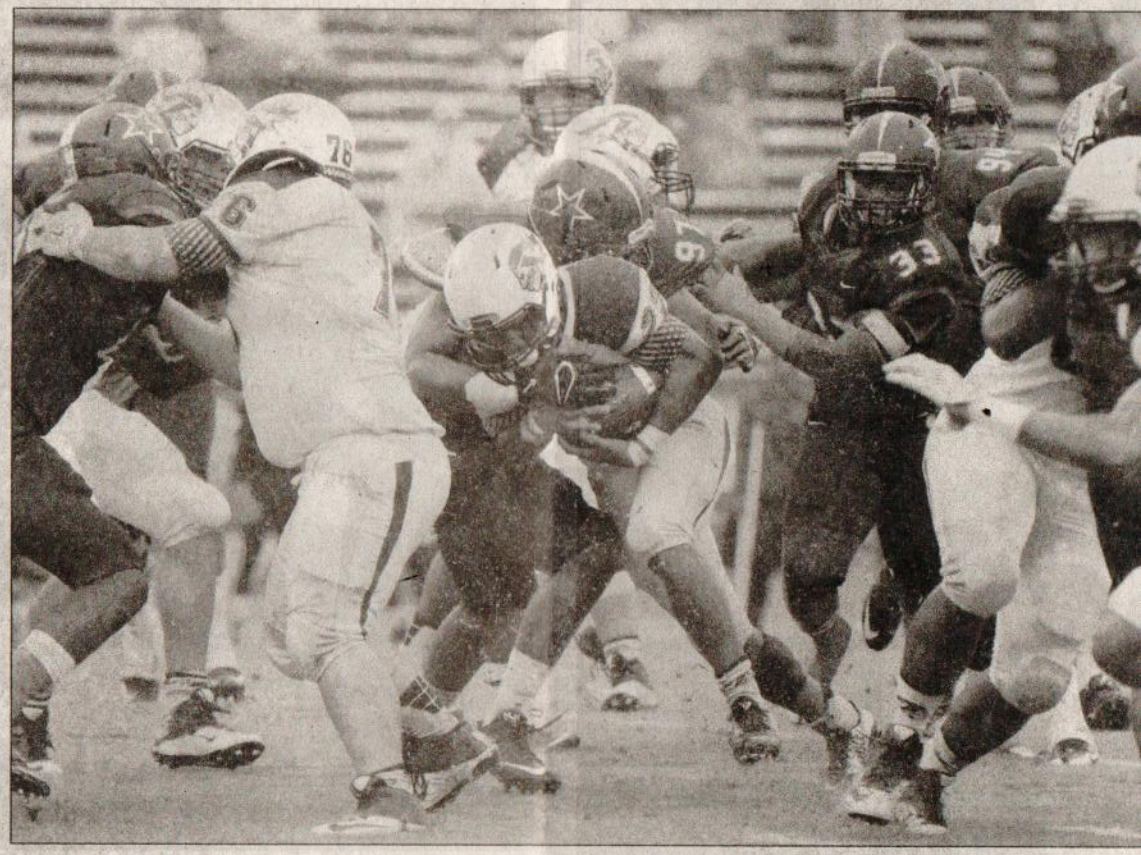
Northwest closed the gap to 14-10 with just three seconds left in the first half on a five-yard pass from Gardner Minshew to Marquisian Chapman. The Rangers benefited from a Warrior fumble deep in their own territory to get possession on the East Central 20 as time was expiring.

As the rain stopped falling to begin the third quarter, Northwest took advantage of two short East Central punts to take the lead.

Following a 22-yard Garrett punt, Northwest set up play on the Warrior 44-yard line. Two plays later, Minshew hit a wide open Jacob McCrary on a 41-yard touchdown pass and the Rangers led 17-14.

Garrett's punt on the Warriors' next possession traveled just 23 yards and Northwest was in business on the East Central 36-yard line. The Rangers settled for a 28-yard field goal and a 20-14 lead.

Lightning struck on the ensuing kickoff in the name of Henri Murphy. The freshman out of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., took the Northwest kick and sprinted 90 yards untouched for the score. The PAT was blocked and the score was tied 20-20 with 6:48 to go in the third quarter.



East Central freshman running back Tredarian Gamble rumbles for some of his 85 first half rus at Northwest.

Minshew would then throw his second touchdown pass of the afternoon to Chapman, this time with 6:11 left in the game to take the lead for good at 27-20. The play covered six yards to finish off an 11-play, 80-yard game-winning drive.

The weather made for an interesting afternoon for kickers from both team, with the Warriors missing two field goals, one in each half.

East Central managed 226 total yards on the afternoon west's 350.

Gamble led the Warrio yards rushing and one t Linebacker Eric McPhe Jim Hill High School had for East Central, incl tackles for the loss.

WEEK OF November 1-2

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Rangers hold off East Central to reach finals

By KEVIN MALONEY NWCC Sports Information 7 hrs ago

Credit: JUCOWeekly.org

Northwest sophomore defensive lineman Corey Brown brings down East Central running back Tredarian Gamble during Saturday's 27-2 Ranger victory in the MACJC semifinals at Senatobia.

Down 11 in the first half in Saturday's MACJC football semifinal game against 17th-ranked East Central, No. 2 Northwest outscored the Warriors 24-6 down the stretch and held them to just 67 yards in the second half to grind out a 27-20 win and advance to next week's state championship game.

It's been quite a turnaround for Jack Wright and the Rangers, inheriting a 1-8 program in 2013 on three years probation by the MACJC, and two years later starting off 9-1 and ranked second in the NJCAA with four Top 20 wins.

Northwest snapped an eight-game losing streak in the state playoffs and will play in its first MACJC championship game since 1999; the same year of their last conference championship. East Central ended a great season at 7-3.

It was East Central, however, who got out to a fast start on Saturday, jumping out to a 14-3 lead.

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on desototimes.com

WEEK OF NOV. 1, 2015

Gene Swindoll - GenesPage.com

East Central Community College tight end Jordan Thomas has committed to Mississippi State.

STEVE ROBERTSON
Friday at 5:00 PM

Mississippi State likes using the tight end. With senior tight Darrion Hutcherson moving on next year, the Bulldogs have elected to dip into the junior college ranks again and sign a talented replacement. Summrall, Mississippi native Jordan Thomas is headed to Starkville by way of East Central Community College.

East Central CC will be in playoff action tomorrow against Northwestern Community College. With a chance at a NJCAA Regional Championship on the horizon, Thomas elected to make his decision now.

"Mississippi State just makes me feel at home," Thomas said late Friday. "I just feel like going there would be the best decision for me."

At 6-6, 278 pounds the talented Thomas brings a lot to the table from a size and athletic standpoint. The Summrall High School product reports that he can help the Bulldogs as an attached tight end in tight sets or as a receiver flexed out in the slot.

"I can do either one," Thomas said. "I feel like I can do whatever they need me to do. I just want to be able to help the team."

Thomas has not had the chance to attend a Mississippi State home game this season, but he plans to attend the remaining home games.

"I have been up to Mississippi State twice this year, but those were for camps and visits," Thomas explains. "I haven't been to game yet, but I will be there for the Alabama and Ole Miss games. I am looking forward to getting up there."

Thomas' primary recruiter is Bulldog safeties' coach Tony Hughes. The talented Thomas reports that he has a strong relationship with Hughes as well as his future position coach, Coach Scott Sallach.

"I really like Coach Sallach," Thomas said. "I think he is a good coach and I am looking forward to working with him."

Thomas has recorded 16 catches for 138 yards and a touchdown on the year during the Warriors' 7-2 regular season.

Slated to graduate in December and enroll at Mississippi State in time for spring practice, Thomas is expected to take his official visit in the coming weeks with an eye on a December signing date.

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WEEK OF NOV 1, 2015

These Newton County Elementary School kindergarten through second graders took a minute out of their Cougar Buck Rewards' football camp to snap a picture with members of the East Central Community College Football team. The camp was offered to both kindergarten through second grade students and third through fifth-grade students as part of the NCES Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Cougar Buck Cash-in

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East Central set to visit Northwest in MACJC semifinals Saturday

From school reports

The East Central Community College Warriors converted three turnovers into 13 points en route to a 20-3 road win over the Pearl River Community College Wildcats Oct. 22 in Poplarville, and in the process earned their first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.

With the win, East Central finishes second in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division and qualifies for the state playoffs.

The 16th ranked East Central Community College Football Warriors will travel to Senatobia Saturday, Oct. 31, to face the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers in the semifinals of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. at Bobby Franklin Field on the Northwest campus.

Due to the disqualification of East Mississippi Community College from the playoffs for a fight that occurred during the Lions' game Oct. 22 at Mississippi Delta Community College, Northwest is now the No. 1 seed from the MACJC's North Division. East Central was originally scheduled to play No. 1 North seed East Mississippi in Scooba on Oct. 31.

East Central's last playoff appearance was in 2001, a 10-7 loss to Mississippi Delta Community College.

East Central finished the regular season 7-2 overall, the best won-loss record for the Warriors since 1999. The Warriors finished 4-2 in MACJC South Division play. Pearl River finished 2-7 overall and 1-5 in the South Division.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the No. 1 seed from the South Division, will host Itawamba Community College, the No. 2 seed from the North, in the other semifinal game.

The Warriors got the scoring started against Pearl River with a 51-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket to a wide-open Henri Murphy. The freshman wide receiver out of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., caught the ball on the run at the 10-yard line and coasted in for the score. The point after kick by sophomore Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School was good and East Central led 7-0 with 3:29 to go in the first quarter. The drive covered 86 yards in eight plays.

Pearl River pulled to within 7-3 midway through the second quarter with a 22-yard field goal.

East Central ex[illegible] its lead moments later when sophomore linebacker Demetrius Gooden out of Newton County High School recovered a Wildcat fumble on the Pearl River seven-yard line. The next play, Hosket, a product of French Camp Academy, tossed a seven-yard touchdown to sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento, also out of Dollarway High School. Garrett's kick put the Warriors up 14-3 late in the second quarter.

East Central took advantage of another Pearl River turnover late in the third quarter. Freshman cornerback Torran Davis, a product of Red Bank High School in Chattanooga, Tenn., recovered a Wildcat fumble at the Pearl River 13. Four plays later Garrett converted a 23-yard field goal and East Central led 17-3.

Garrett added another field goal on the second play of the fourth quarter, this time from 36-yards out and the Warriors' lead was extended to 20-3. An interception by sophomore defensive back Jaylon Lofton out of Forest High School set up the kick.

It was the Warriors first win over Pearl River since 2008.

Hosket finished the game 19 of 34 passing for 208 yards and two touchdowns. Freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, a product of Oxford High School (Ala.), had 130 yards rushing on 23 carries. Gamble was the MACJC Football Offensive Player of the Week for his play last week.

The semifinal MACJC state playoff game between East Central and Northwest can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.emc-cathletics.com.

WEEK OF October 25

Northwest hosts East Central in playoffs Saturday

By KEVIN MALONEY NWCC Sports Information Updated 13 hrs ago

Credit: JUCOWeekly.org

For the first time since 2010, Northwest will host a football playoff game at Bobby Franklin Field.

Northwest (8-1, 5-1 North) will entertain East Central (7-2, 4-2) on Saturday, Oct. 31 at 2 p.m. Both teams are ranked nationally in the NJCAA polls. The Rangers are making their 26th trip to the playoffs in the last 34 years while the Warriors are postseason bound for the first time since 2001.

Both teams will play at different venues after a surprising ruling by the MACJC last Friday. Due to the disqualification of East Mississippi from the playoffs for a bench-clearing brawl that occurred during

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WEEK OF October 25

ECCC opens playoffs at Northwest

The 16th ranked East Central Community College Football Warriors will travel to Senatobia Saturday, Oct. 31, to face the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers in the semifinals of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs.

Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. at Bobby Franklin Field on the Northwest campus.

Due to the disqualification of East Mississippi Community College from the playoffs for a fight that occurred during the Lions' game Oct. 22 at Mississippi Delta Community College, Northwest is now the No. 1 seed from the MACJC's North Division.

East Central was originally scheduled to play No. 1 North seed East Mississippi in Scooba on Oct. 31.

With a 20-3 road victory over Pearl River Community College Oct. 22, East Central finished second in the MACJC South Division and qualified for the state playoffs for the first time since 2001.

East Central finished the regular season 7-2 overall, the best won-loss record for the Warriors since 1999.

The Warriors finished 4-2 in MACJC South Division play. Northwest, which is ranked No. 6 nationally, finished 8-1 overall and 5-1 in North Division play.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the No. 1 seed from the South Division, will host Itawamba Community College, now the No. 2 seed from the North, in the other semifinal game.

The semifinal MACJC state playoff game between East Central and Northwest in Senatobia Oct. 31 can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.nwccrangers.com/watch.

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WEEK OF Oct. 25, 20

JUCO FOOTBALL

ECCC set for 1st playoff game since 2001

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

When No. 17 East Central Community College travels to No. 2 Northwest Community College today, it will mark the first time the Warriors have played in the state playoffs since the 2001 season.

It also marks the first time ECCC football has amassed a winning campaign in that same span.

"I'm proud of our kids, and the (assistant) coaches have done a great job all year, and we're deserving of where we are," ECCC head coach Ken Karcher said. "We're playing great football in all phases of the game, and it's a tribute to our young men. I'm excited for them."

Karcher arrived on the Decatur-based campus in 2013, going 1-8 and 3-6 in his first two years at the helm, steadily building the program back up. The Warriors (7-2) enter today's showdown winners in their last four games and four of the last five.

"We knew coming in it would be a long haul, and we're still in the early stages," Karcher explained. "We haven't reached where we want to be or need to be. But we had a plan, and it starts with people. If you have the right people, then you have a chance."

Karcher and his squad will have their hands full today as the Rangers (8-1) boast the No. 2 rusher in all of NJCAA football in Justin Crawford, who averages 142.8 rushing yards per game and has scored 13 touchdowns. Additionally, Northwest quarterback Gardner Minshew is seventh in the country with 277.3 passing yards per contest.

> "It's going to be a great challenge, but I think our guys are going to be up for it."
>
> — Ken Karcher

"I think our defense has played well all year, and anytime you play someone that has that capability, both in Gardner and the Crawford young man, you have to stop the run, and you have to try to make them one-dimensional," Karcher said. "It's going to be a great challenge. They've got a great scheme, and they're well-coached."

The Warriors will attempt to slow down Northwest Mississippi's high-octane attack with a defense that limits opponents to just 14.8 points per outing.

"It's going to be a great challenge, but I think our guys are going to be up for it," Karcher added.

Offensively, East Central will display a balanced attack, led by quarterback Jesse Hosket. Hosket ranks 27th in passing yards per game (167.1) but owns a 16-1 touchdown to interception rate.

"He's done a great job, and I think the thing he's done the best is the off-the-field stuff," Karcher explained. "He's done a great job of leading off the field, and our kids respect him, and he's got great confidence."

The Warriors are led by a trio of running backs, headlined by the nation's No. 14 rusher, Tredarian Gamble.

"Anytime you run the ball, it's a credit to all 11 people (on the field)," Karcher said. "It's not just the running back or the offensive lineman; the tight ends are involved and the receivers are involved, the quarterback and what he does in the throwing game. It's a team effort, and they've done a great job of that. This week will be a great challenge, because they have a great defense. It will be interesting to see who can run the ball better."

Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. today.

"They're a good football team," Karcher said. "It's going to be a hard-fought game. We're very similar in all phases of the game, and I look forward to it. I think our kids are ready to go, and we have a great opportunity ahead of us."

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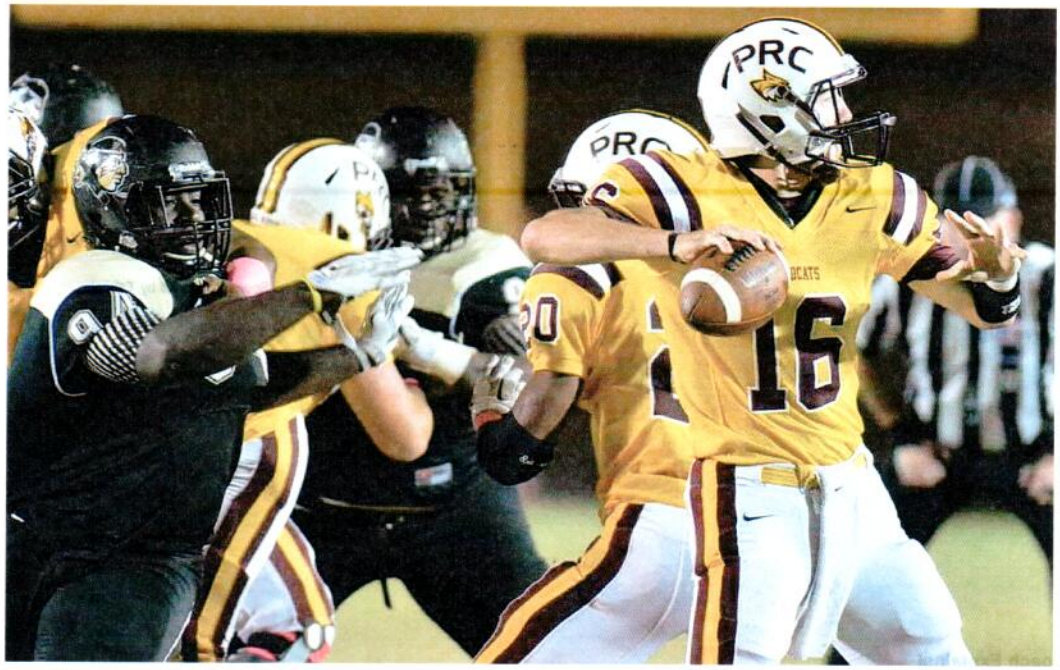
WEEK OF Oct. 25, 2015

JUNIOR COLLEGES OCTOBER 23, 2015

East Central downs PRCC, clinches playoff berth



SUN HERALD

POPLARVILLE - The defense showed up for Pearl River Community College, but the offense was once again nowhere to be found Thursday night against East Central.

As a result, the Warriors took a 20-3 victory over the Wildcats in the season finale for PRCC.

Pearl River finished 2-7 overall and 1-5 in the South Division, while the Warriors (7-2, 4-2) will continue their season next week in the MACJC semifinals at East Mississippi.

"I think we got locked in on what they were doing," said PRCC coach William Jones. "We thought if we set some edges, I thought we'd have a chance. But it's just hard to play with your backs against the wall all the time."

Turnovers proved to be PRCC's downfall, as three fumbles and an interception led directly to 13 of the Warriors' points.

East Central used a big pass play to jump on top with 3:29 left in the first quarter, when Jesse Hosket connected with Henri Murphy on a 51-yard touchdown pass.

The Wildcats got their only points of the night midway through the second quarter after driving as far as the East Central 2-yard-line before settling for Brennan O'Keefe's 22-yard field goal.

Later in the second quarter, the Wildcats lost a fumble at their own 7-yard line, and Hosket needed just one play to find Kabion Ento in the back of the end zone for a touchdown.

The Warriors had two golden opportunities in the second half after recovering a Wildcat fumble at the PRCC 17, then intercepting a pass and returning the pick to the Wildcat 23.

Both times, however, Pearl River denied ECCC a first down and the Warriors were forced to settle for field goals of 23 and 36 yards by Aaron Garrett.

The Wildcats also stopped East Central four times on fourth down.

"Everybody gave it their all," said PRCC linebacker Jarkeith Ruffin. "We had a couple of tough breaks on the offensive side, but everybody played hard."

However, PRCC only converted 3 of 14 third-downs and totaled 196 yards of offense and 11 first downs.

sunherald.com

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

ECCC Will Now Face Northwest in Playoffs after EMCC is Disqualified

By: ECCC Media Relations
Posted: Fri 4:05 PM, Oct 23, 2015

The 16th ranked East Central Community College Football Warriors will travel to Senatobia Saturday, Oct. 31, to face the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers in the semifinals of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs.

Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. at Bobby Franklin Field on the Northwest campus.

Due to the disqualification of East Mississippi Community College from the playoffs for a fight that occurred during the Lions' game Oct. 22 at Mississippi Delta Community College, Northwest is now the No. 1 seed from the MACJC's North Division.

East Central was originally scheduled to play No. 1 North seed East Mississippi in Scooba on Oct. 31.

With a 20-3 road victory over Pearl River Community College Oct. 22, East Central finished second in the MACJC South Division and qualified for the state playoffs for the first time since 2001.

East Central finished the regular season 7-2 overall, the best won-loss record for the Warriors since 1999. The Warriors finished 4-2 in MACJC South Division play. Northwest, which is ranked No. 6 nationally, finished 8-1 overall and 5-1 in North Division play.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the No. 1 seed from the South Division, will host Itawamba Community College, now the No. 2 seed from the North, in the other semifinal game.

The semifinal MACJC state playoff game between East Central and Northwest in Senatobia Oct. 31 can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.nwccrangers.com/watch.

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WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

East Central Warriors Stop Pearl River 20-3

Posted: Thu 9:55 PM, Oct 22, 2015 *By: ECCC Media Relations*

--The East Central Community College Warriors converted three turnovers into 13 points en route to a 20-3 road win over the Pearl River Community College Wildcats Oct. 22 in Poplarville, and in the process earned their first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.

With the win, East Central finishes second in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division and qualifies for the state playoffs. As the No. 2 seed from the South, the Warriors will travel to Scooba on Saturday, Oct. 31, to face the MACJC North Division champion East Mississippi Community College Lions. Kickoff is at 2 p.m. from Sullivan-Windham Field.

East Central's last playoff appearance was in 2001, a 10-7 loss to Mississippi Delta Community College.

East Central finished the regular season 7-2 overall, the best won-loss record for the Warriors since 1999. The Warriors finished 4-2 in MACJC South Division play. Pearl River finished 2-7 overall and 1-5 in the South Division.

East Mississippi, with a 9-0 overall record and 6-0 in the North Division, has won the last two state and National Junior College Athletic Association national championships.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the No. 1 seed from the South Division, will host Northwest Mississippi Community College, the No. 2 seed from the North, in the other semifinal game.

The Warriors got the scoring started against Pearl River with a 51-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket to a wide-open Henri Murphy. The freshman wide receiver out of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., caught the ball on the run at the 10-yard line and coasted in for the score. The point after kick by sophomore Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School was good and East Central led 7-0 with 3:29 to go in the first quarter. The drive covered 86 yards in eight plays.

Pearl River pulled to within 7-3 midway through the second quarter with a 22-yard field goal.

East Central extended its lead moments later when sophomore linebacker Demetrius Gooden out of Newton County High School recovered a Wildcat fumble on the Pearl River seven-yard line. The next play, Hosket, a product of French Camp Academy, tossed a seven-yard touchdown to sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento, also out of Dollarway High School. Garrett's kick put the Warriors up 14-3 late in the second quarter.

East Central took advantage of another Pearl River turnover late in the third quarter. Freshman cornerback Torran Davis, a product of Red Bank High School in Chattanooga, Tenn., recovered a Wildcat fumble at the Pearl River 13. Four plays later Garrett converted a 23-yard field goal and East Central led 17-3.

Garrett added another field goal on the second play of the fourth quarter, this time from 36-yards out and the Warriors' lead was extended to 20-3. An interception by sophomore defensive back Jaylon Lofton out of Forest High School set up the kick.

It was the Warriors first win over Pearl River since 2008.

Hosket finished the game 19 of 34 passing for 208 yards and two touchdowns. Freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, a product of Oxford High School (Ala.), had 130 yards rushing on 23 carries. Gamble was the MACJC Football Offensive Player of the Week for his play last week.

The semifinal MACJC state playoff game between East Central and East Mississippi in Scooba Oct. 31 can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.emccathletics.com.

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WTOK X

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

PRCC closes season vs. East Central

Stan Caldwell, PRCC Sports Information *8:22 p.m. CDT October 21, 2015*

(Photo: File)

POPLARVILLE – A difficult football season will come to an end for Pearl River Community College on Oct. 22 when the Wildcats host East Central in a South Division clash.

Kickoff at Dobie Holden Stadium is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Wildcats (2-6 overall, 1-4 in the South Division) are hoping to end on a positive note against the 16th-ranked Warriors (6-2 overall), who come in with their playoff hopes still very much alive.

East Central, Hinds and Copiah-Lincoln all come in to the final week of the season tied for second at 3-2 behind Gulf Coast, which has completed its division schedule. If the Warriors win, they will clinch the South's No. 2 berth in next week's MACJC semifinals.

But for PRCC, it's more about finishing strong and winning at home, where the Wildcats are 0-3 this season.

"Any time you have your last game at home, you want to win that," said PRCC coach William Jones. "I don't think we've showed as well at home as we need to. You've got to defend your home ground, and we haven't done that."

The Wildcats are coming off a disheartening 26-23 homecoming defeat at the hands of Northeast, while East Central blasted Southwest 47-17. The Warriors have been one of the surprise teams in the MACJC in their third season under former Tulane quarterback Ken Karcher.

"I think he's coach of the year in our league," said Jones. "They run the ball with balance, a lot of different ways, with lots of different personnel groups, and they've been extremely advantageous in passing situations."

Sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket is the triggerman for East Central. He has completed 110 of 146 passes (75.3 percent) for 1,308 yards and 14 touchdowns, and he's only been intercepted once this season.

Freshman Tredarian Gamble leads the Warriors in rushing with 734 yards on 122 carries, good for a 6.0-yard average, and he's scored nine touchdowns.

The Wildcats got a good game on defense from defensive tackle Kendrick Hair and linebacker Jarkeith Ruffin Saturday against Northeast. Hair had 13 tackles against the Tigers, one for loss, and two sacks, and Ruffin had 14 tackles and also had a sack.

This is the 76th meeting all-time between Pearl River and East Central, with the Wildcats leading the series 52-19-4. Last season at Decatur, PRCC was a 10-2 winner.

The Pearl River-East Central game can be seen on prccmedia.com and prcc.edu, and can be heard on the radio on the PRCC Network, which includes WFMM-FM (Super Talk 97.3 in Hattiesburg), WFFF-FM (96.7 in Columbia) and WRJW-AM (1320 in Picayune).

Kelly Sanner will call the play-by-play, with David Sutton providing color analysis.

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other X

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

East Central wins, gets playoff berth

From school reports

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The win earned the Warriors their first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001. ECCC finished second in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division and qualifies for the state playoffs.

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See ECCC on page B3

ECCC from page B1

Division.

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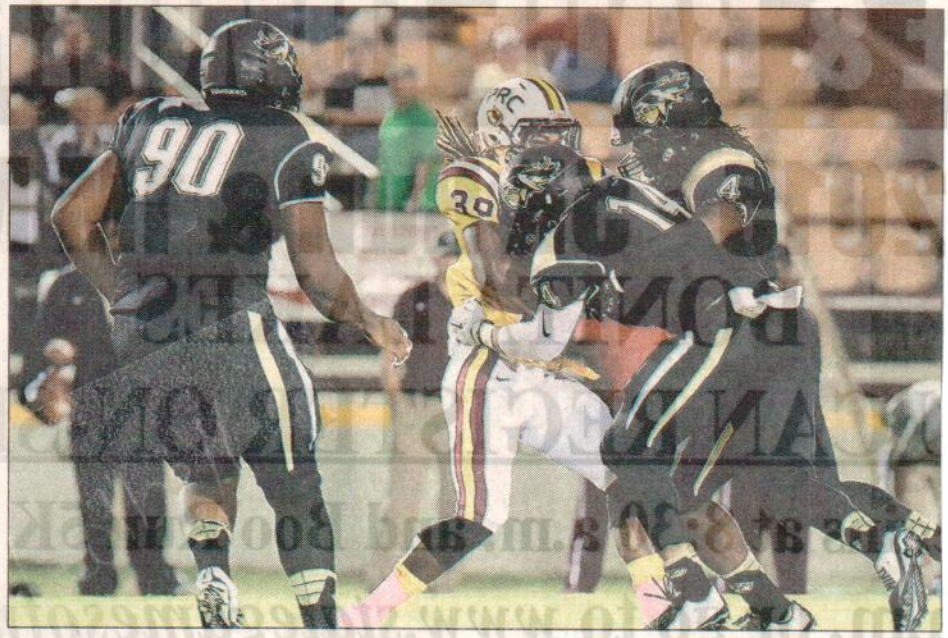

Photo courtesy of ECCC

East Central Community College freshman linebacker Pat Walker out of North Forrest High School in Hattiesburg smothers a Pearl River Community College running back during first-half action Thursday.

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Week of Oct. 18, 2015

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Clarion-Ledger _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Meridian Star X

Winston County Journal _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

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Oct 18, 2015

WEEK OF

East Central records sixth win of season with Homecoming victory

From school reports

Behind four rushing touchdowns from freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, the East Central Community College Warriors made their 2015 Homecoming crowd a happy one with a 47-17 win over the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears Oct. 17 in Bailey Stadium in Decatur.

East Central improved to 6-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 3-2 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division play. Southwest fell to 3-5 overall and 1-4 in the South Division. It is the Warriors' best start since 1991. East Central had already clinched its first winning season since 2001.

The two teams combined for 43 points in a high-scoring first half. The visiting Bears jumped out to an early lead on its first drive of the game on a 45-yard touchdown pass from Casey Haygood to Shuntez Smith. The point after by Reed James was good, and with 9:13 left in the first quarter Southwest led 7-0. The 10-play drive covered 78 yards.

Less than two minutes later, East Central tied the game on a nine-yard run by freshman running back Tredarian Gamble. Freshman kicker Aaron Garrett kicked the point after to tie the score at 7-7. The key play of the six-play, 75-yard drive was a 47-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket of French Camp Academy to sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento that put the Warriors in business on the Southwest nine-yard line.

The Warriors quickly grabbed the lead on Southwest's next possession. Defensive linemen Jerry Magee out of Collins High School and Jadarius Ceasar out of Paul Bryant High School in Tuscaloosa (Ala.) hit Bear quarterback Haygood as he scrambled in the pocket, forcing the ball into the air where it was caught in the end zone by sophomore defensive lineman Derek Mahaffey of Oxford High School (Ala.). Garrett's kick was no good and the Warriors were up 13-7 with 7:08 still remaining in the first quarter.

Southwest came right back after the turnover and marched 56 yards to the Warrior nine-yard line before settling for a 27-yard field goal by James to pull within 13-10.

Gamble extended the Warriors' lead early in the second quarter on a five-yard run. Garrett's PAT was good and the Warriors led 20-10. Gamble set up his touchdown with a 36-yard run one play earlier.

The Bears answered again, this time on a 14-play, 75-yard drive ending with a five-yard touchdown pass from Haygood to Ravian Pierce. Reed's PAT was good and with 3:39 left in the first half, the East Central lead was 20-17.

The first-half offensive output was not over however. With just over three minutes left on the clock, the Warriors took the Southwest kickoff and drove 43 yards, with Gamble scoring his third touchdown of the first half on an 11-yard scamper with 43 seconds remaining. After Garrett's kick, East Central took a 27-17 lead to the locker room.

East Central struck quickly coming out of the locker room. On the second play of the third quarter, freshman defensive back Isiah Thomas, a product of Madison Central High School, picked off a Haygood pass at the Bears' 45-yard line and returned it to the 11. Two plays later, Gamble was in the end zone for the fourth time on the afternoon, and Garrett's PAT gave East Central a 34-17 lead.

Neither team would score the rest of the third quarter. The Warriors moved in front 41-17 on the first play of the final quarter on a 41-yard strike from Hosket to Devin McIntosh. The sophomore wide receiver out of Amory High School made a diving catch of the Hosket toss at the goal line for the score. Garrett's point after was good.

East Central would get on the scoreboard one more time following an Austin Balthazor interception of a Haygood pass. The sophomore safety out of Seminary High School returned the interception to the Southwest 21. Four plays later, sophomore quarterback Trey Willis out of Forest Hill High School found freshman wide receiver Noah Nix, a product of West Lauderdale High School, in the corner of the end zone for the score. Garrett's point after kick was no good and the Warriors led 47-17 with 11:17 to go in the game.

Gamble finished the game with 131 yards rushing on 19 carries and the four scores. He had 116 of those yards in the first half. It was his fifth straight game with over 130 yards rushing, and he's scored nine touchdowns in those five games. Hosket was five of 10 passing for 127 yards and one touchdown.

East Central will turn right around and play again on Thursday at the Pearl River Community College Wildcats. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. at Dobie Holden Stadium in Poplarville. It is the regular season finale for both South Division teams.

The game can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.prcc.tv.

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

JUCO FOOTBALL

East Central wins big at homecoming

By Brandon Shields
Special to The Star

DECATUR — East Central's Tredarion Gamble wanted to have a bounceback day.

Well, he did.

Behind the hard running of Gamble, the Warriors ran past Southwest 47-17 on homecoming at Bailey Stadium Saturday afternoon.

"We were able to get great field position pretty much the whole game, and the offensive line did a great job blocking," East Central coach Ken Karcher said. "Tredarion is a great running back, and last week he put the ball on the ground a couple of times, and today he did what he is capable of doing. "

With the win, the No.20-ranked Warriors (6-2, 3-2 MACJC South) are still in the driver's seat for the No. 2 seed out of the MACJC South heading into the final week.

East Central is in a three-way tie for the final playoff spot with Hinds and Copiah-Lincoln. The No. 2 seed will face East Mississippi in the first round of the MACJC playoffs.

The easiest scenario is if the Warriors win next week at

See EAST CENTRAL on page B4

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Tredarian Gamble fights his way into the end zone Saturday against Southwest Mississippi Community College in Decatur.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

Pg. 2

Week of Oct. 18, 2015

EAST CENTRAL from page B1

Pearl River and Hinds wins against Southwest and Co-Lin loses to Jones. That would allow East Central would get in on the head-to-head tiebreaker.

"All we can do is take care of what we have in front of us," Karcher said. "We've got Pearl River next week, and that is the main thing we are worried about, and the rest will take care of itself."

Gamble finished the game with 126 yards rushing on 19 carries and had four touchdowns. He had a 9-yard touchdown run in the first quarter that tied the game at seven with 7:30 left. His next score came on 5-yard touchdown run in the second quarter, which gave the Warriors a 20-10 lead with 13:29 left.

He added a 11-yard run with 43 seconds left before halftime to give the Warriors a 27-17 lead. His last touchdown came in the third quarter on a 8-yard run.

"I just ran behind blocks and was able to get a lot of yards and touchdowns," Gamble said. "I practiced all week keeping the ball high and not get it taken away like I did last week."

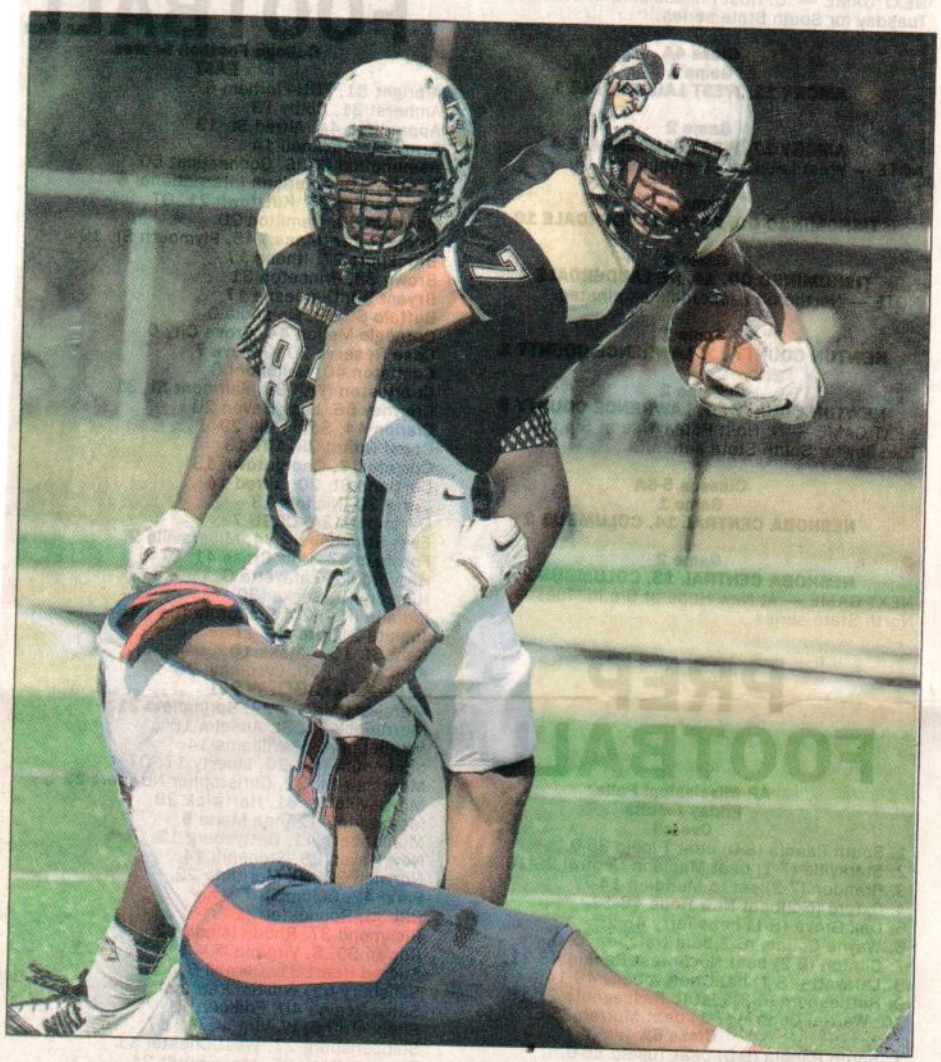
Quarterback Jesse Hosket passed for 128 yards and a touchdown for East Central. His touchdown pass came on the last play of the third quarter on a 41-yard toss to Devin McIntosh.

Defensive linemen Derek Mahaffey had a 2-yard interception return for a touchdown in the first quarter that gave the Warriors a 13-7 lead.

"The defense has been doing a great job of getting turnovers and did the same today," Karcher said. "If can continue to stop the run and have teams throw on us, we will be fine."

Noah Nix had a 14-yard touchdown pass from Trey Willis to end the scoring for the Warriors.

Casey Haygood led Southwest (3-5, 1-4) with 210 yards passing with two touchdowns.



Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Kabion Ento picks up some extra yardage on a pass reception against Southwest Mississippi Community College Saturday in Decatur.

Appeared in:

Carthaginian

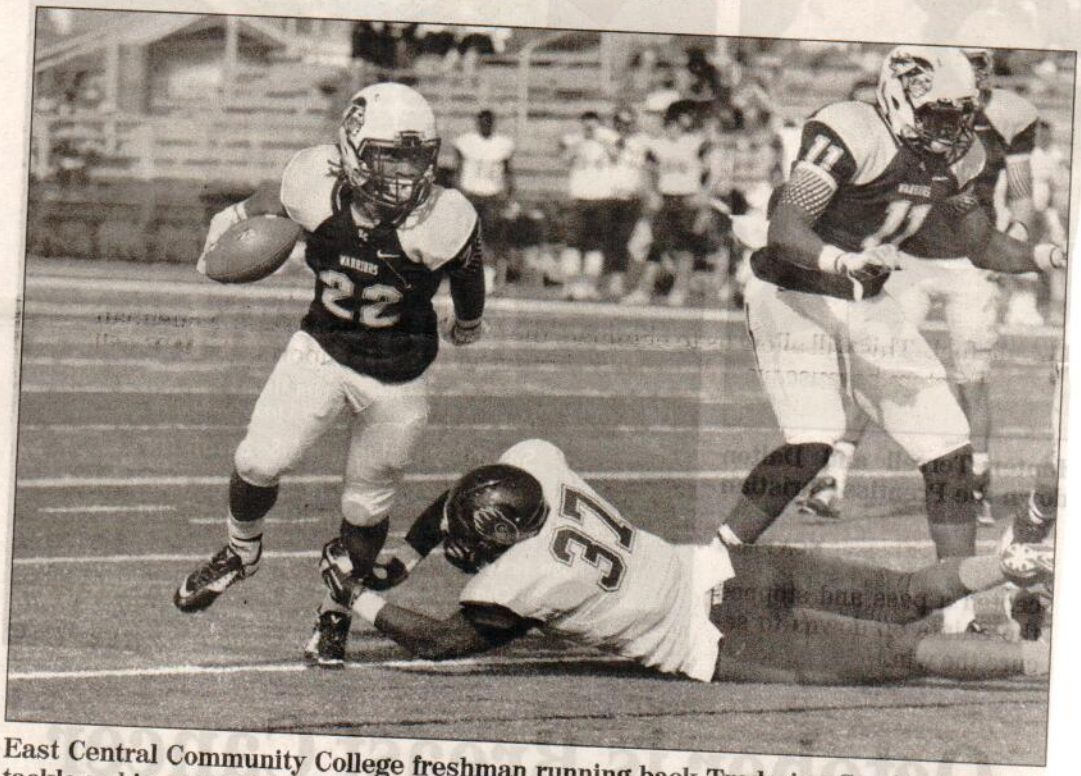
Clarion-Ledger

Meridian Star

Neshoba Demo

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

FOOTBALL: EAST CENTRAL 47, SOUTHWEST 17



East Central Community College freshman running back Tredarian Gamble breaks a tackle on his way to the end zone for one of his four touchdowns as Jordan Thomas (11) holds his block.

Jeff Parks/Special to the Appeal

EC cruises past Southwest

By ECCC sports information

Behind four rushing touchdowns from freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, the East Central Community College Warriors made their 2015 homecoming crowd a happy one with a 47-17 win over the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears Oct. 17 in Bailey Stadium in Decatur.

It is the Warriors' best start since 1991. East Central (6-2, 3-2 in division play) had already clinched its first winning season since 2001.

The visiting Bears (3-5, 1-4) jumped out to an 7-0 early lead on its first drive of the game on a 45-yard touchdown pass from Casey Haygood to Shuntez Smith.

The Bears answered again, this time on a 5-yard touchdown pass from Haygood to Ravian Pierce with 3:39 left in the first half.

Gamble scored his third touchdown of the first half on an 11-yard scamper with 43 seconds remaining. After Aaron Garrett's kick, East Central took a 27-17 lead to the locker room.

On the second play of the third quarter, freshman defensive back Isiah Thomas picked off a Haygood pass to set up Gamble's fourth score.

The Warriors moved in front 41-17 on the first play of the final quarter on a 41-yard strike from Hosket to Devin McIntosh.

APPEARED IN

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NEWTON C ... T COUNTY TIMES _____

SPIRIT OF ... TON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

MERIDIAN ... ION-LEDGER _____

Week of Oct. 18, 2015

pg. 2

Less than two minutes later, East Central tied the game on a 9-yard run by freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, set up by a 47-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket to sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento.

Defensive linemen Jerry Magee and Jadarius Ceasar hit Haygood as he scrambled in the pocket, forcing the ball into the air where it was caught in the end zone by sophomore defensive lineman Derek Mahaffey.

Southwest came back after the turnover with a 27-yard field goal by Reed James to pull within 13-10.

Gamble extended the Warriors' lead early in the second quarter on a 5-yard run.

East Central got on the scoreboard one more time following an Austin Balthazor interception of a Haygood pass, which was returned to the Southwest 21.

Four plays later, sophomore quarterback Trey Willis found freshman wide receiver Noah Nix in the corner of the end zone for the score.

Gamble finished the game with 131 yards rushing on 19 carries and the four scores. He had 116 of those yards in the first half. It was his fifth straight game with over 130 yards rushing, and he's scored nine touchdowns in those five games.

Hosket was five of 10 passing for 127 yards and one touchdown.

East Central will play its season finale Thursday at Pearl River.

Appeared in:

Newton Appeal X

Carthaginian _____

Scott County Times _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Meridian Star _____

Winston County Journal _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

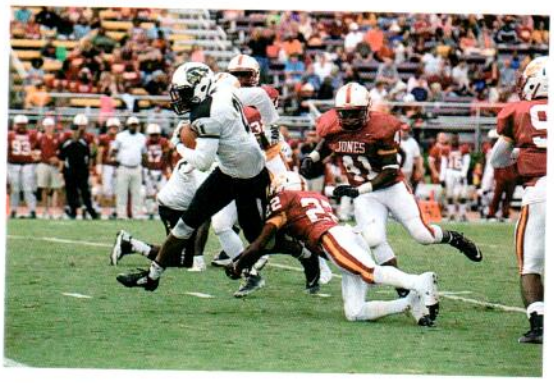
Other Publications _____

WEEK OF October 11, 2015

ECCC spoils Jones County's homecoming with 14-6 win

From school reports | Posted: Sunday, October 11, 2015 4:02 am

ELLISVILLE — The East Central Community College Warriors scored two first half touchdowns and then held on for a 14-6 win over Jones County Junior College Saturday, spoiling the Bobcats' homecoming celebration.



Mikell Daniels

Freshman running back Mikell Daniels pulls away from a Jones County defender during first half action of the ECCC's 14-6 win.

East Central improved to 5-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 2-2 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division play. Jones County fell to 2-5 overall and 2-2 in the South Division.

After a scoreless first quarter that saw each team control the ball for long periods of time without scoring, East Central got on the scoreboard on the first play of the second quarter. Facing a third and nine from the Jones 23, sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket, a product of French Camp High School, hit tight end Jordan Thomas out of Sumrall High School for the score.

The drive covered 72 yards in 10 plays. Freshman Aaron Garrett, a product of Meridian High School, kicked the point after and the Warriors led 7-0.

On the Bobcats next possession, sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School in Collins picked off a Kelvin Bourrage pass and returned it 27 yards to the Jones 20-yard line. Three plays later, freshman running back Tredarian Gamble powered in from the one-yard line to put the Warriors up 14-0 after Garrett's PAT.

Gamble out of Oxford High School (Ala.) rushed for 140 yards on 28 carries on the afternoon. It was his fourth straight game rushing for over 130 yards.

Jones County didn't get on the scoreboard until early in the fourth quarter on a one-yard run by wide receiver Tevin Moore. The point after by Michael Godly was wide right and East Central led 14-6. The 17-play, 81-yard drive was aided by a personal foul and defensive holding call against the Warriors, and included a successful fourth down and three conversion from the East Central 5-yard line.

The East Central defense forced eight Jones punts on the afternoon.

Hosket completed all nine passes he attempted in the first half for 70 yards and a touchdown. He finished the day 15 of 19 for 105 yards.

East Central returns home next Saturday for its homecoming game, hosting Southwest Mississippi Community College. The South Division showdown kicks off at 2:30 p.m.

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Meridianstar.com

WEEK OF October 11, 2015

ECCC improves to 2-2 in

From School reports

The East Central Community College Warriors scored two first-half touchdowns and then held on for a 14-6 win over Jones County Junior College last Saturday, spoiling the Bobcats Homecoming celebration in Bobcat Stadium in Ellisville.

East Central improved to 5-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 2-2 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division play. Jones County fell to 2-5 overall and 2-2 in the South Division.

East Central returns home Saturday for its annual Homecoming game hosting Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears.The South Division showdown kicks off at 2:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

The game can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.eccc.edu or www.kicks967.com

After a scoreless first quarter that saw each team control the ball for long periods of time without scoring, East Central got on the scoreboard on the first play of the second quarter. Facing a third and nine from the Jones 23, sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket, a product of French Camp Academy, hit tight end Jordan Thomas out of Sumrall High School for the score.

The drive covered 72 yards in 10 plays. Freshman Aaron Garrett kicked the point after and the Warriors led 7-0.

On the Bobcats next possession, sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School in Collins picked off a Kelvin Bourrage pass and returned it 27 yards to the Jones 20-yard line. Three plays later, freshman running back Tredarian Gamble powered in from the one-yard line to put the Warriors up 14-0 after Garrett's PAT.

Gamble out of Oxford High School (Ala.) rushed for 140 yards on 28 carries on the afternoon. It was his fourth straight game rushing for over 130 yards.

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APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

pg. 2

Week of Oct. 11, 2015

South Division with big road win

East Central freshman running back Mikell Daniels out of Forest High School powers into the Jones County defense during first half action of the Warriors' 14-6 win.

personal foul and defensive holding call against the Warriors, and included a successful fourth down and three conversion from the East Central five-yard line.

The East Central defense forced eight Jones punts on the afternoon.

Hosket completed all nine passes he attempted in the first half for 70 yards and a touchdown. He finished the day 15 of 19 for 105 yards.

Appeared in:

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star X

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal X

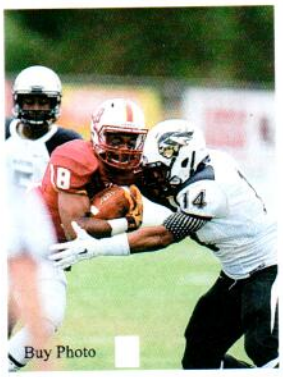
Other Publications _____

WEEK OF October 4-12-15

Hattiesburg American

East Central spoils JCJC homecoming

Special to the American *7:32 p.m. CDT October 10, 2015*



(Photo: SUSAN BROADBRIDGE/HATTIESBURG AMERICAN)

ELLISVILLE – East Central Community College scored a pair of second-quarter touchdowns and made them stand up in a 14-6 win at Jones County Junior College on Oct. 10.

The homecoming loss drops the Bobcats to 2-5 overall, 2-2 in the MACJC South Division. East Central is now 5-2 overall and 2-2 in division play.

The Bobcats played without regular starting quarterback Thad Miller, who was injured and did not dress.

JCJC ended the game with 12 first downs and 190 yards of total offense.

One of the few bright spots for the Bobcats was the punting of Patrick Ponder. The state's leading punter averaged 49.1 yards per punt on eight kicks, including a whopping 82-yarder into the end zone for a touchback in the fourth quarter.

East Central had 18 first downs and 291 yards of total offense. Running back Tredarian Gamble had 30 carries for 151 yards and a touchdown, but also lost two fumbles. ECCC quarterback Jesse Hosket was 15-of-19 through the air for 95 yards and one touchdown.

On its first possession, East Central drove from its own 22-yard line to the JCJC 6 in 14 plays. But on the final play of the possession, Gamble fumbled and JCJC's Al'Dreecous Wilson recovered at the 3-yard line.

The Bobcats moved the ball toward mid-field, but the drive stalled and the home team was forced to punt.

East Central took over on its own 28 and on the first play of the second quarter, Hosket connected with Jordan Thomas over the middle on a 23-yard touchdown pass. Aaron Garrett's extra point gave the Warriors a 7-0 lead with 14:54 left in the first half.

Two possessions later, JCJC quarterback Kelvin Bourrage was picked off by East Central's Austin Balthazor at the Bobcat 48. He returned it to the JCJC 28, setting up the visitors' other touchdown. Gamble scored on a 2-yard run and Garrett's extra point gave the Warriors a 14-0 lead with 7:35 left in the first half.

JCJC's best drive of the day came early in the fourth quarter.

JCJC marched 81 yards in 17 plays and took almost eight minutes off the clock, scoring on a 1-yard run by Tevin Moore. However, the extra point attempt was off to the right and the Warriors led 14-6 with 11:37 remaining in the game.

With less than 5 minutes left in the game, ECCC fumbled on a third-and-3 carry and JCJC's Markel Winters recovered at his own 44 with 1:36 remaining.

With no timeouts left, JCJC moved quickly to a first down at the ECCC 43.

After two incomplete passes, Bourrage had an open DeSherrius Flowers deep down the middle of the field, but could not connect. On fourth-and-10, Bourrage was forced to scramble and gained only six yards.

East Central took over with 50.4 seconds left and kneeled on it twice to end the game.

The Bobcats travel to Raymond to face Hinds Community College at 7 p.m. on Oct. 15.

East Central hosts Southwest at 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 17.

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WEEK OF October 9, 2015

Hattiesburg American

JCJC in 2nd coming into game vs. East Central

Shawn Wansley, JCJC Sports Information *8:40 p.m. CDT October 9, 2015*

(Photo: Matt Bush/Juco Weekly)

ELLISVILLE — The Jones County Junior College Bobcats control their own destiny when it comes to postseason play.

JCJC is 2-4 overall, but the Bobcats are in sole possession of second place in the MACJC South Division with a 2-1 division mark heading into their Oct. 10 Homecoming contest vs. East Central.

"I think that's the key," said JCJC head coach David Thornton. "You have to look down the road and see what we can still accomplish. The playoffs are very reachable. We have three South Division games remaining and who knows what could happen?"

Saturday's game begins at 2 p.m. and will air on www.jcjc.tv (http://www.jcjc.tv). There will be no local radio broadcast this week.

On Oct. 8, No. 7 Mississippi Gulf Coast clinched the top spot in the South Division with a 41-10 victory over Pearl River. Hinds upset No. 9 Copiah-Lincoln, 33-26.

MGCCC leads the division at 5-0, while JCJC is 2-1. Hinds and Co-Lin are each 2-2 and East Central is 1-2.

"East Central, Hinds and Co-Lin are all in the picture and we play all of those teams," Thornton said. "We have a shot and as long as we keep playing hard and taking care of the football, there is no telling what could happen."

The Warriors will bring a confident team to Bobcat Stadium/Sim Cooley Field.

East Central beat Hinds 28-19 last week. They also own wins over Mississippi Delta (34-0), Coahoma (46-13) and Holmes (29-14).

They have lost to Mississippi Gulf Coast (30-14) and Copiah-Lincoln (31-28).

"East Central has good players on both sides of the ball," Thornton said. "They have some good out-of-state and in-state players. Defensively, their line has a lot of size to it. They have some players who run around well on defense."

The Warriors are led by head coach Ken Karcher, who played quarterback collegiately at Notre Dame and Tulane and in the NFL with the Denver Broncos.

The Bobcats are coming off a 49-7 loss to No. 6 East Mississippi.

Thornton said the Bobcats played that game the way they practiced during the week.

"We typically practice well," he said. "But last week, we did not and we talked about that as a team. There is a reason that you lose games like that the way we did. We did not have a good week of practice and we were not very focused on everything."

Thornton said workouts this week have been much better.

"We have had a good week of practice," he said. "We just did not do as well as we should last week and we have talked about it. It goes back to the old saying that you play like you practice. There is no magic switch you flip."

The Bobcats know what is at stake this week. A win would keep them in sole possession of second place with two games left in the season.

"It's a big game," Thornton said. "It's Homecoming for us and hopefully, we will rise to the occasion. We should have a good atmosphere here and I think our guys will play well."

JCJC travels to Hinds for a 7 p.m. game on Oct. 15.

East Central hosts Southwest on Oct. 17.

WEEK OF October 4, 2015

ECCC Spoils Jones County's Homecoming With Victory

By: ECCC Media Relations
Posted: Sat 5:04 PM, Oct 10, 2015

--The East Central Community College Warriors scored two first half touchdowns and then held on for a 14-6 win over Jones County Junior College Saturday, Oct 10, spoiling the Bobcats Homecoming celebration in Bobcat Stadium in Ellisville.

East Central improved to 5-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 2-2 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division play. Jones County fell to 2-5 overall and 2-2 in the South Division.

After a scoreless first quarter that saw each team control the ball for long periods of time without scoring, East Central got on the scoreboard on the first play of the second quarter. Facing a third and nine from the Jones 23, sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket, a product of French Camp High School, hit tight end Jordan Thomas out of Sumrall High School for the score.

The drive covered 72 yards in 10 plays. Freshman Aaron Garrett, a product of Meridian High School, kicked the point after and the Warriors led 7-0.

On the Bobcats next possession, sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School in Collins picked off a Kelvin Bourrage pass and returned it 27 yards to the Jones 20-yard line. Three plays later, freshman running back Tredarian Gamble powered in from the one-yard line to put the Warriors up 14-0 after Garrett's PAT.

Gamble out of Oxford High School (Ala.) rushed for 140 yards on 28 carries on the afternoon. It was his fourth straight game rushing for over 130 yards.

Jones County didn't get on the scoreboard until early in the fourth quarter on a one-yard run by wide receiver Tevin Moore. The point after by Michael Godly was wide right and East Central led 14-6. The 17-play, 81-yard drive was aided by a personal foul and defensive holding call against the Warriors, and included a successful fourth down and three conversion from the East Central five-yard line.

The East Central defense forced eight Jones punts on the afternoon.

Hosket completed all nine passes he attempted in the first half for 70 yards and a touchdown. He finished the day 15 of 19 for 105 yards.

East Central returns home next Saturday, Oct. 17, for its annual Homecoming game hosting Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears. The South Division showdown kicks off at 2:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

The game can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.eccc.edu or www.kicks967.com

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WEEK OF October 4, 2015

ECCC improves to 4-2 with solid home

From school reports

DECATUR – Behind the running of Tredarian Gamble and the passing of Jesse Hosket, the East Central Community College Warriors rolled to a 28-19 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division victory over the Hinds Community College Eagles Oct. 1 in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

Gamble, a freshman running back out of Oxford High School (Ala.), rushed for 154 yards, and Hosket, a sophomore quarterback out of French Camp High School, passed for three touchdowns.

"I'm proud of the kids," said ECCC Head Coach Ken Karcher after the win. "They believed we could win. Last week (31-28 loss to No. 1 Copiah-Lincoln) was tough, but they got over that, and I think they know they can compete with anybody in this league, and they took care of business.

"Hinds is a scary team. And we thought all week they're one of the most talented teams in the league. I thought our defense did a great job."

East Central improved to 4-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 1-2 in MACJC South Division play. Hinds fell to 3-3 overall and 1-2 in the South Division.

It was Sophomore Recognition Night in Bailey Stadium, as the Warrior sophomore players and their families were honored in pre-game ceremonies. It also was Military Veterans and First Responders Appreciation Night, and all veterans and first responders were admitted free to the game, invited to participate in the Warrior Club Tailgate, recognized before kickoff.

East Central jumped out to an early 14-0 lead in the game on two Hosket to Kabion Ento touchdown passes.

The Warriors drove 96 yards in 14 plays for their first score. Hosket connected on a quick out pass to sophomore wide receiver Ento of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., who turned up field and raced 22 yards to the end zone. Freshman kicker Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School kicked the point after and East Central led 7-0 with 3:29 to go in the first quarter.

The drive started on East Central's own four-yard line after sophomore linebacker Aubrey Bourn of Hattiesburg High School recovered an Eagle fumble to end the visitor's opening drive of the game.

East Central extended its lead to 14-0 on its next possession on another Hosket to Ento scoring toss, this time covering 41 yards on the second play of the second quarter. The drive covered 65 yards in just five plays. Garrett kicked the point after.

"Hosket is flawless. He's a quarterback coach's dream is what he is," Karcher said of his sophomore quarterback. "It's an honor to coach the kid; he does everything you ask, and somebody (four-year college) is going to be lucky that takes him."

Hinds would get a 25-yard field goal off the foot of freshman kicker Mason Sollie to cut the lead to 14-3 at 8:07 of second quarter.

On its next possession, the Eagles drove 80 yards in eight plays to pull within 14-10 just before the half. Sophomore wide receiver Jahmmir Taylor scored on a sweep from the five yard line. Sollie's point after kick was good.

East Central went up 21-10 midway through the third quarter on a nine-yard run up the middle by Gamble. Garrett kicked the PAT. The nine-play, 61-yard drive was kept alive by a key fourth down conversion. Needing six yards, the Warriors picked up 18 yards on a Hosket pass to freshman wide receiver Noah Nix out of West Lauderdale High School on a wheel route.

"Coach was telling me that we needed to score that drive," said Gamble. "I saw the hole open, and I just ran for the touchdown. I didn't want to let anybody stop

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

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MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT X

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

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Week of Oct. 4, 2015

win over Hinds CC

me."

"Nix made that play to keep the drive alive," Karcher added. "Noah's got great ability, and he's done a good job for us."

Hinds answered on its next drive with a 42-yard Sollie field goal. With 2:19 left in the third quarter, the East Central lead was 21-13.

The Warriors appeared to put the game out of reach early in the fourth quarter on Hosket's third touchdown pass of the evening, a perfect strike to freshman wide receiver Henri Murphy on a 28-yard slant route. Murphy is a product of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark. Garrett's point after kick put East Central up 28-12 with 13:52 to go in the game.

But Hinds would not quit. With 5:01 remaining, quarterback TR Page hit running back DJ Sims on a 15-yard pass and run. Sollie's point after attempt was wide left, and East Central had its final 28-19 margin of victory.

East Central finished with 448 yards total offense, including 284 on the ground. Gamble carried the ball 22 times for 154 yards and one touchdown. Hosket was 10 of 17 passing for 164 yards and three scores. Ento caught six passes for 106 yards and the two scores.

Sophomore defensive end Jadarius Ceasar out of Paul Bryant High School in Tuscaloosa, Ala., was in the Hinds backfield all night, recording three sacks for minus 15 yards and three tackles for losses of nine yards. The Warrior defense had six sacks on the night, including one for freshman defensive lineman Courtney Stamper, a product of Red Bank High School in Chattanooga, Tenn., that resulted in a loss of 24 yards. Sophomore linebacker Devontae Wilson out of Warren Central High School in Vicksburg led the Warrior defense with seven total tackles.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game going against Hinds," Ceasar said. "I just had to play my part. They ran the dive a lot, but then they got out of that, and I knew it was time to crank it up then."

East Central will travel to Jones County Junior College in Ellisville next Saturday, Oct. 10, for a South Division showdown. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. in Bobcat Stadium/Sim Cooley Field.

The game can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. You can watch the game at www.jcjc.tv.

"It's going to be a couple of days extra rest," said Karcher. "The guys will have a longer weekend. We won't start up again until Tuesday, so hopefully some guys that have bruises will get some rest."

Appeared in:

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Carthaginian _____

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Clarion-Ledger _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Meridian Star _____

Winston County Journal _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Other Publications X WTOK

WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

EC Warriors earn ranking

The East Central Community College Warriors were ranked No. 19 in the nation in this week's National Junior College Athletic Association Top 20 football rankings released Sept. 22.

The ranking followed East Central's 29-14 road victory over Holmes Community College in a game played at Grenada High School. The Warriors are 0-2 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division play.

The Warriors will host Hinds Community College in football action Thursday, Oct. 1, at 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

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WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

ECCC FOOTBALL

McPherson named player of the week

From school reports

McPherson

East Central Community College linebacker Eric McPherson has been named the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Football Defensive Player of the Week for his play against Copiah-Lincoln Community College last Thursday.

The 5-11, 221-pound sophomore out of Jim Hill High School in Jackson tallied 19 total tackles, including 11 solo stops, in East Central's near upset of No. 1-ranked Co-Lin. He led a defense that held the Wolfpack to 309 yards total offense. McPherson also had one tackle for a loss.

Co-Lin won the game played in Bailey Stadium on the ECCC campus 31-28.

On the season, McPherson is second in the MACJC in tackles with 53 total in five games.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

RUSHING FORWARD

Running backs lead way as Warriors defeat Hinds CC

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Tredarian Gamble picks up a nice gain before being brought down by a pair of Hinds Community College defenders Thursday in Decatur.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

Pg. 2

Week of Sept. 27, 2015

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — East Central Community College utilized three running backs to rack up 264 rush yards, and quarterback Jesse Hosket threw for three touchdowns as ECCC beat Hinds Community College 28-19 Thursday night.

The Warriors rebounded strongly after coming up just short a week ago in an upset bid of No. 1 Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

"I'm proud of the kids. They believed we could win," East Central Community College coach Ken Karcher said. "Last week was tough, but they got over that, and I think they know they can compete with anybody in this league, and they took care of business (Thursday)."

Hosket's completed 10 of 17 passes and threw for 157 yards. His favorite target was sophomore wideout Kabion Ento, who hauled in five passes for 98 yards and two scores.

"(Hosket) is flawless. He's a quarterback coach's dream is what he is," Karcher said of his signal caller. "It's an honor to coach the kid; he does everything you ask, and somebody (four-year college) is going to be lucky that takes the kid."

28

19

Tredarian Gamble registered the only rushing touchdown, after the freshman scampered in for a 9 yard touchdown score.

"(Karcher) was telling me that we needed to score that drive," Gamble said. "I saw the hole open, and I just ran for the touchdown. I didn't want to let anybody stop me."

Gamble committed two fumbles in last week's loss, but rebounded strongly as he ran for 154 yards on 22 carries Thursday.

"This (game) was very important for me to come back and fix my mistakes," Gamble said. "(Karcher) always tells me I have 24 hours to dwell on (the previous game). I just let (the Co-Lin game) go and played my game.

"We're just very excited; we're learning how to win."

Savon Robinson had 64 yards rushing, while Mikell Daniels chipped in with 46 more.

"Everywhere I've ever been, we've always had three backs," Karcher said. "We want them to have different type of abilities, so the defense has something different coming at them all the time. Those kids keep getting better, and our offense and tight ends did a great job blocking."

Gamble's scoring run was set up by a key fourth down catch by freshman wide receiver Noah Nix. The former West Lauderdale star lined up in the backfield on fourth-and-4 and hauled in an 18-yard pass on a wheel route.

"(Nix) made the play," Karcher said. "(Thursday) and last week, we weren't in as many three-wide sets -- that position doesn't get on as much -- but that was a critical play. Noah's got great ability, and he's done a good job for us."

The Warriors defense was equally effective, notching four sacks and recovering a pair of fumbles. Sophomore defensive lineman Jadarius Ceasar created havoc in the backfield all night long, and recorded a sack on the game's final to clinch the win.

"We knew it was going to be a tough (game) going against (Hinds)," Ceaser said. "I just had to play my part. They ran the dive a lot, but then they got out of that, and I knew it was time to crank it up then."

With the win, East Central (4-2, 1-2) eclipses last year's win total, a 3-6 campaign.

"We've been together for a year, and everybody knows each other," Ceasar said of the turnaround. "We're a family, and we're just vibing with each other."

Hinds (3-3, 1-2) had 377 yards of offense, while East Central recorded 421 yards.

ECCC led at the half 14-10.

"They're a scary team," Karcher said. "And we thought all week they're one of the most talented teams in the league. I thought our defense did a great job. They're going to make some plays; they have some good players."

Appeared in:

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Neshoba Democrat _____

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WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

NO. 19 EAST CENTRAL 28, NO. 1 COPIAH-LINCOLN 31

Late fumble dooms EC comeback

By ECCC sports information

A furious second half comeback by the East Central Community College Warriors fell short as No. 1 Copiah-Lincoln (5-0, 2-0) escaped Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus Thursday, Sept. 24, with a hard-fought 31-28 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division victory.

The Warriors (3-2, 0-2) had driven inside the Co-Lin 20-yard line with just over two minutes remaining in the game, trailing 31-28, when Devin McIntosh had the ball jarred loose by the Wolfpack's Kelvin Thomas, which was recovered by Co-Lin's Stacee James on the Wolfpack 13-yard line to preserve the victory.

In addition to the drama in the final minutes, an early second quarter fumble that resulted in a Co-Lin touchdown and a mishandled punt, missed field goal and failed fourth down conversion on the Co-Lin 22 in the second half were turning points in the East Central loss.

"I think the mistakes are what cost us the game," said East Central Head Coach Ken Karcher. "We played right with them. We had opportunities, and when you make those mistakes, they're going to beat you. We'll keep getting better, and I think our young men are showing we can play with anybody in this league."

Co-Lin scored on its first three offensive possessions in the first half and added a 75-yard fumble return by Lashard Durr to jump out to a 24-14 halftime lead.

The Wolfpack wasted little time getting on the scoreboard to start the game. Co-Lin settled for a 26-yard field goal from sophomore kicker Greg Nickles, with 7:09 to go in the first quarter.

Co-Lin drove 68 yards in 10 plays culminating in a two-yard touchdown plunge by sophomore running back Lakedric Lee, putting the Wolfpack up 10-0 after one quarter of play.

The Warriors drove 77 yards in just five plays with Gamble scoring from the 2. The extra point by freshman Aaron Garrett of Meridian closed the gap to 17-7.

The Warriors went back on offense at their own 49-yard line after a successful onside kick. Gamble found the end zone again, this time from 6 yards out to make it 17-14 with eight minutes remaining in the first half.

The Wolfpack extended their lead with 3:23 left in the half on a 4-yard run by Lee.

Gamble scored his third touchdown of the game on East Central's first drive of the third quarter. The Warriors took the opening kick off of the second half and drove 68 yards in 10 plays, with Gamble bulling over from the 4, cutting the Co-Lin lead to 24-21.

An East Central mishandled punt was recovered by Co-Lin at the Warrior 37. The took advantage, this time on a 19-yard pass from fresh-

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Week of Sept. 27, 2015

against Wolfpack

Warrior sophomore running back Tredarian Gamble carries Co-Lin defenders into the end zone for one of his three touchdowns on the evening.

EC Photo

man quarterback Garrett Kruzcek to sophomore wide receiver Dayall Harris. After the PAT, Co-Lin led 31-21.

Co-Lin returned the favor, mishandling an East Central punt with the Warriors recovering at the Wolfpack 20-yard line. A Garrett 32-yard field goal attempt was wide right, and the score remained 31-21, still in the third quarter.

The Warriors drove to the Co-Lin 22 early in the fourth quarter, but turned the ball over on downs after failing to convert a fourth and one.

The East Central defense stiffened on the next Wolfpack possession and forced a Co-Lin punt. Three plays later, Hosket hit a wide open Jordan Thomas on a 60-yard scoring toss. Garrett's kick pulled East Central to within 31-28.

Co-Lin lost 14 yards on its next possession, thanks in part to a Jadarius Ceasar sack of Kruzcek for a 7-yard loss. The Wolfpack were forced to punt from their own end zone giving East Central good field position at midfield with 5:28 left in the game.

The Warriors drove to the Wolfpack 22-yard line in the final two minutes of the contest, before McIntosh was hit hard by Kelvin Thomas and lost the football to James.

East Central finished with 435 yards total offense, while Co-Lin managed just 309. Hosket was 13 of 20 passing for 253 yards. Thomas had two catches for 85 yards and the touchdown. On the ground, Gamble had 137 yards on 23 carries.

Appeared in:

Newton Appeal X

Carthaginian _____

Scott County Times _____

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Meridian Star _____

Winston County Journal _____

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Other Publications _____

WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

ECCC falls short in loss to No.

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
Sports Editor

A furious second half comeback by the East Central Community College Warriors fell short as the No. 1 ranked Copiah-Lincoln Wolfpack escaped Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus Thursday, Sept. 24, with a hard-fought 31-28 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division victory.

The Warriors had driven inside the Co-Lin 20-yard line with under two minutes remaining in the game, trailing 31-28, when sophomore wide receiver Devin McIntosh out of Amory High School had the ball jarred loose and the Wolfpack recovered on their own 13 yard line to preserve the victory.

The game was played before a standing room only crowd as East Central hosted its annual "Be Our Guest" night for local high school students.

East Central fell to 3-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 0-2 in MACJC South Division play. Copiah-Lincoln improved to 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the South Division.

In addition to the drama in the final minutes, an early second quarter fumble that resulted in a Co-Lin touchdown, and a mishandled punt, missed field goal, and failed fourth down conversion on the Co-Lin 22 in the second half were turning points in the East Central loss.

"I think the mistakes are what cost us the game," said East Central Head Coach Ken Karcher. "We played right with them. We had opportunities, and when you make those mistakes, they're going to beat you. We'll keep getting better, and I think our young men are showing we can play with anybody in this league.

"They're a good football team, and they're well coached. The first half they moved the ball, but the second half I don't think they really did much. They're a good a team, and good teams are going to move the ball at times."

Co-Lin scored on its first three offensive possessions in the first half and added a 75-yard fumble return to jump out to a 24-14 halftime lead.

The Wolfpack wasted little time getting on the scoreboard to start the game. Co-Lin took the opening kickoff and drove 82 yards in 16 plays to the East Central nine-yard line before settling for a 26-yard field goal from sophomore kicker Greg Nickles. With 7:09 to go in the first quarter, Co-Lin led 3-0.

Following an East Central punt, the visitors were on the move again. Co-Lin drove 68 yards in 10 plays culminating in a two-yard touchdown plunge by sophomore running back Lakedric Lee. The point after by Nickles put the Wolfpack up 10-0 after one quarter of play.

It appeared the Warriors might get back into the game on their next drive. East Central had moved to the Co-Lin 27 yard line, when freshman running back Tredarian Gamble fumbled and Co-Lin's Lashard Durr scooped up the ball and raced 75 yards untouched for the touchdown. The point after kick was good again, and the Wolfpack led 17-0 early in the second quarter.

On the ensuing Co-Lin kickoff, East Central quickly moved down the field for its first score of the night. The Warriors drove 77 yards in just five plays with Gamble, a product of Oxford High School (Ala.), scoring from the two. The extra point by freshman kicker Aaron Garrett of Meridian High School closed the gap to 17-7.

The Warriors immediately went back on offense at their own 49-yard line after a successful onside kick. Seven plays later, Gamble was in the end zone again, this time from six yards out. Garrett's point after was good, and East Central had pulled to within 17-14 with eight minutes remaining in the first half. The key play of the drive was a 45-yard strike from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket of French Camp High School to freshman tight end of Kalen Meggs of Richland that put the ball on the Wolfpack 10-yard line.

The Wolfpack would extend their lead back to 10 with 3:23 left in the half on a four-yard run by Lee. The nine-play drive covered 60 yards. Nickles PAT put Co-Lin up 24-14 after two quarters of play.

Gamble scored his third touchdown of the game on East Central's first drive of the third quarter. The Warriors took the opening kick off of the second half and drove 68 yards in 10 plays, with Gamble bulling over from the four. Garrett's kick was true and the Co-Lin lead was cut to 24-21.

East Central was poised to get ball right back with a chance to take the lead, but a mishandled punt was recovered by Co-Lin at the Warrior 37. Just four plays later, the Wolfpack was in the end zone again, this time on a 19-yard pass from freshman quarterback Garrett Kruzcek to sophomore wide receiver Dayall Harris. After the PAT, Co-Lin led 31-21.

Just minutes later, Co-Lin would return the favor, mishandling an East Central punt with the Warriors recovering at the Wolfpack 20-yard line. A Garrett 32-yard field goal attempt was wide right, and the score remained 31-21, still in the third quarter.

The Warriors drove to the Co-Lin 22 early in the fourth quarter, but turned the ball over on downs after failing to convert a fourth and one.

The East Central defense stiffened on the next Wolfpack

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

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1 Co-Lin

possession and forced a Co-Lin punt. Three plays later, Hosket hit a wide open Jordan Thomas on a 60-yard scoring toss. The sophomore tight end caught the ball at about the 15, shook off a Co-Lin defender and found the end zone. Garrett's kick pulled East Central to within 31-28.

Co-Lin lost 14 yards on its next possession, thanks in part to a Jadarius Ceasar sack of Kruzcek. The sophomore defensive end dropped the Co-Lin signal caller for a seven-yard loss. The Wolfpack were forced to punt from their own end zone giving East Central good field position at midfield with 5:28 left in the game.

The Warriors drove to the Wolfpack 22 yard line in the final two minutes of the contest. Hosket hit McIntosh for what appeared to be a first down at the Co-Lin 13, before he was hit hard and lost the football.

"Our kids just kept believing," said Karcher. "We told them all week long it was going to be a fourth-quarter game. I thought it would go into overtime, actually, and we were real close to that happening."

East Central finished with 435 yards total offense, while Co-Lin managed just 309. Hosket was 13 of 20 passing for 253 yards. Thomas had two catches for 85 yards and the touchdown. McIntosh had five receptions for 64 yards. On the ground, Gamble had 137 yards rushing on 23 carries and three touchdowns.

East Central will host the Hinds Community College Eagles in another South Division contest next Thursday, Oct. 1. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

"It's going to hurt a little bit for about 24 hours," Karcher said. "As I told the guys, we have Hinds next week, and this thing isn't over. I think you'll see us fighting until the end to make the playoffs."

East Central will honor the sophomore football players in ceremonies prior to the game against Hinds. It also will be Military Veterans and First Responders Appreciation Night. All veterans, first responders and their families will be admitted free to the game, invited to participate in the Warrior Club Tailgate, and be recognized during the game.

Appeared in:

Newton Appeal _____

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Meridian Star _____

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WEEK OF Sept 27, 2012

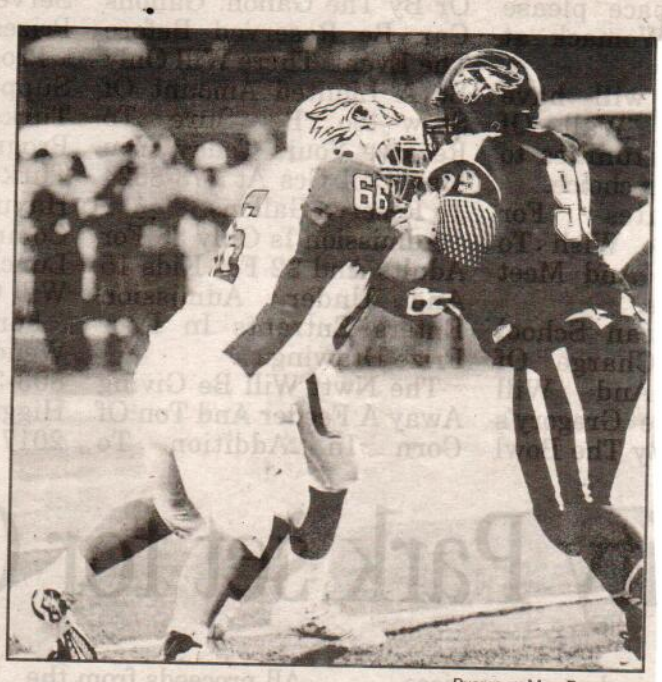
No. 1 Co-Lin holds off homestanding

From combined reports

A furious second half comeback by the East Central Community College Warriors fell short as the No. 1 ranked Copiah-Lincoln Wolfpack escaped Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus last Thursday with a hard-fought 31-28 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division victory.

The Wolfpack defense came up with a game-saving play with just over 2 minutes to play in the fourth quarter to preserve the win. East Central drove the ball down to the Co-Lin 22 yard line, when Warrior quarterback Jesse Hosket hit receiver Devin McIntosh across the middle of the field, but the Wolfpack defense stripped the ball recovered the ball at the 13-yard line ending the East Central drive. Co-Lin ran out the clock to secure the victory.

The Wolfpack (5-0, 2-0) will celebrate homecoming against the Pearl River Wildcats on Saturday, Oct. 3. Kick off is at 2:30 p.m. Watch live at www.colinatetics.com or listen on WMJU 104.3 FM in Brookhaven.

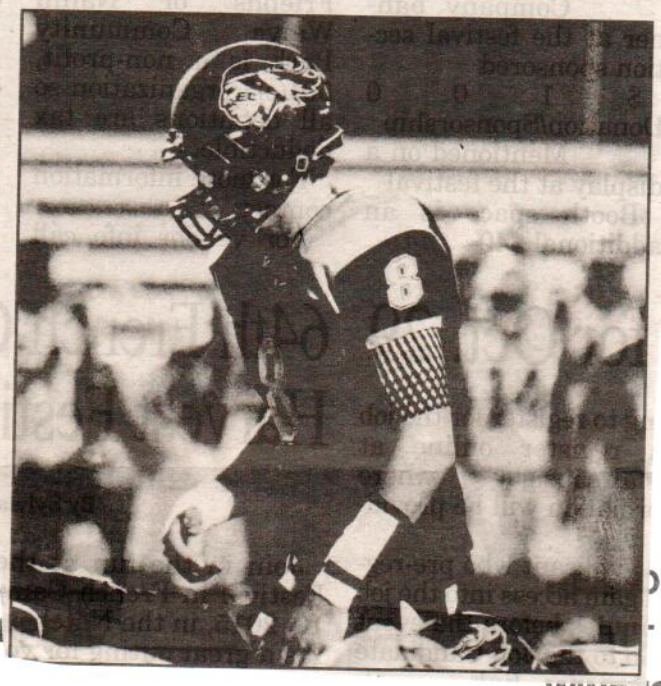


PHOTOS BY MIKE ROBERTSON

(Above) Co-Lin's Paxton Sims (66), a former Choctaw County High School standout, takes care of business locking against East Central on Thursday.

(Right, above) CCHS graduate Tre Brown (40) applies pressure against East Central in the Wolfpack's 31-28 win.

(Below) Former French Camp standout Jesse Hosket (8) calls the signals for East Central against Co-Lin.



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Week of Sept. 27, 2015

East Central fell to 3-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 0-2 in MACJC South Division play. Copiah-Lincoln improved to 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the South Division.

East Central will host the Hinds Community College Eagles in another South Division contest next Thursday, Oct. 1. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

The game can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.eccc.edu or www.kicks967.com

The Wolfpack took the opening drive down deep into East Central territory and took a 3-0 lead on a Greg Nickles 26-yard field goal at the 7:09 mark. Co-Lin running back Lakedric Lee plunged 2-yards into the end zone with 31 seconds left in the quarter. Nickles' was good on the PAT giving the Wolfpack a 10-0 lead.

The Warriors drove the ball down to the Wolfpack 25 yard line, but East Central running back Tredarian Gamble fumbled and Co-Lin's Lashard Durr scooped it up and romped 75 yards to pay dirt. Nickles' PAT was good and the Wolfpack took a 17-0 lead with 12:38 remaining in the second quarter.

On the ensuing Co-Lin kickoff, East Central quickly moved down the field for its first score of the night. The Warriors drove 77 yards in just five plays with Gamble, a product of Oxford High School (Ala.), scoring from the two. The extra point by freshman kicker Aaron Garrett of Meridian High School closed the gap to 17-7.

The Warriors immediately went back on offense at their own 49-yard line after a successful onside kick. Seven plays later, Gamble was in the end zone again, this time from six yards out. Garrett's point after was good, and East Central had pulled to within 17-14 with eight minutes remaining in the first half. The key play of the drive was a 45-yard strike from Hosket of French Camp High School to freshman tight end of Kalen Meggs of Richland that put the ball on the Wolfpack 10-yard line.

But Lee would add his second touchdown of the game at 3:23 left in the half, a 4-yard scamper to give the Wolfpack some breathing room at 24-14.

he Warriors took the opening kick off of the second half and drove 68 yards in 10 plays, with Gamble bulling over from the four. Garrett's kick was true and the Co-Lin lead was cut to 24-21.

East Central was poised to get ball right back with a chance to take the lead, but a mishandled punt was recovered by Co-Lin at the Warrior 37. Just four plays later, the Wolfpack was in the end zone again, this time on a 19-yard pass from freshman quarterback Garrett Kruzcek to sophomore wide receiver Dayall Harris. After the PAT, Co-Lin led 31-21.

Just minutes later, Co-Lin would return the favor, mishandling an East Central punt with the Warriors recovering at the Wolfpack 20-yard line. A Garrett 32-yard field goal attempt was wide right, and the score remained 31-21, still in the third quarter.

Warrior kicker Aaron

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Meridian Star _____

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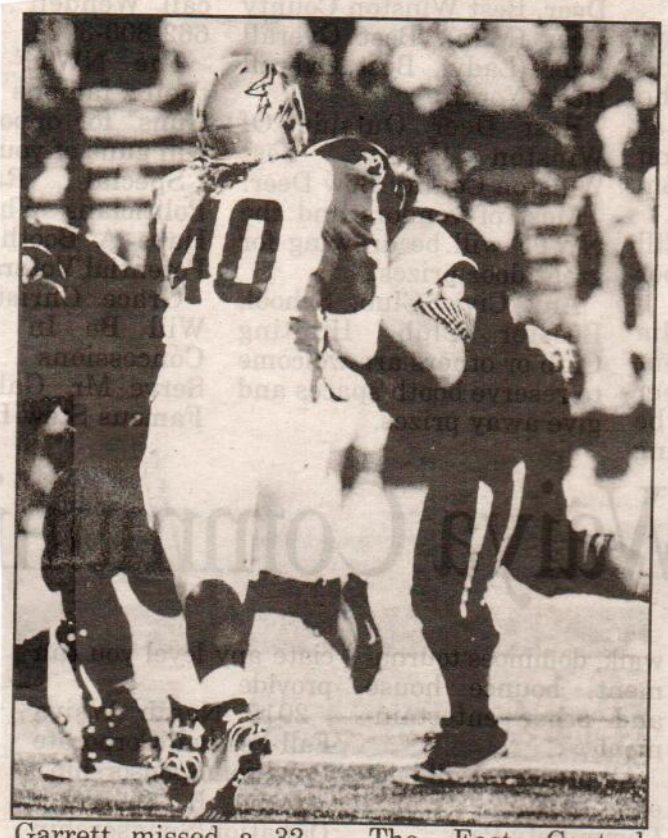
Week of Sept. 27, 2015

East Central in classic



Garrett missed a 32-yard field goal that would have cut the deficit to seven late in the third quarter.

The Warriors drove to the Co-Lin 22 early in the fourth quarter, but turned the ball over on downs after failing to convert a fourth and one.

The East Central defense stiffened on the next Wolfpack possession and forced a Co-Lin punt. Three plays later, Hosket hit a wide open Jordan Thomas on a 60-yard scoring toss. The sophomore tight end out of Sumrall High School caught the ball at about the 15, shook off a Co-Lin defender and found the end zone. Garrett's kick pulled East Central to within 31-28.

Co-Lin's Kruzcek had a very good night completing 25-of-28 passes for 201 yards and one touchdown. Lee had 85 yards on 19 carries and two touchdowns. Jacen Murphy would lead the Co-Lin receivers four catches for 48 yards.

"Our kids just kept believing," said ECCC head coach Ken Karcher. "We told them all week long it was going to be a fourth-quarter game. I thought it would go into overtime, actually, and we were real close to that happening."

East Central finished with 435 yards total offense, while Co-Lin managed just 309. Hosket was 13 of 20 passing for 253 yards. Thomas had two catches for 85 yards and the touchdown. McIntosh had five receptions for 64 yards. On the ground, Gamble had 137 yards rushing on 23 carries and three touchdowns.

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WEEK OF Sept 27, 2012

ECCC comes up short in rally versus Co-Lin

A furious second half comeback by the East Central Community College Warriors fell short as the No. 1 ranked Copiah-Lincoln Wolfpack escaped Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus Thursday, Sept. 24, with a hard-fought 31-28 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division victory.

The Warriors had driven inside the Co-Lin 20-yard line with under two minutes remaining in the game, trailing 31-28, when sophomore wide receiver Devin McIntosh out of Amory High School had the ball jarred loose and the Wolfpack recovered on their own 13 yard line to preserve the victory.

East Central fell to 3-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 0-2 in MACJC South Division play. Copiah-Lincoln improved to 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the South Division.

In addition to the drama in the final minutes, an early second quarter fumble that resulted in a Co-Lin touchdown, and a mishandled punt, missed field goal, and failed fourth down conversion on the Co-Lin 22 in the second half were turning points in the East Central loss.

"I think the mistakes are what cost us the game," said East Central Head Coach Ken Karcher. "We played right with them. We had opportunities, and when you make those mistakes, they're going to beat you. We'll keep getting better, and I think our young men are showing we can play with anybody in this league.

Co-Lin scored on its first three offensive possessions in the first half and added a 75-yard fumble return to jump out to a 24-14 halftime lead.

Down 31-21 in the fourth, the Warriors scored on a 60-yard pass to pull within three before coming up short.

East Central will host the Hinds Community College Eagles in another South Division contest next Thursday, Oct. 1. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. in Decatur.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

Furious Comeback Falls Short As No. 19 ECCC Falls To No. 1 Co-Lin

Posted: Thu 9:41 PM, Sep 24, 2015

By: ECCC Media Relations

--A furious four-quarter comeback by the East Central Community College Warriors fell short as the No. 1 ranked Copiah-Lincoln Wolfpack escaped Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus Thursday, Sept. 24, with a hard-fought 31-28 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division victory.

The Warriors had driven inside the Co-Lin 20-yard line with under two minutes remaining in the game, trailing 31-28, when sophomore wide receiver Devin McIntosh out of Amory High School had the ball jarred loose and the Wolfpack recovered on their own 13 yard line to preserve the victory.

The game was played before a standing room only crowd as East Central hosted its annual "Be Our Guest" night for local high school students.

East Central fell to 3-2 overall on the season. The Warriors are now 0-2 in MACJC South Division play. Copiah-Lincoln improved to 5-0 overall and 2-0 in the South Division.

In addition to the drama in the final minutes, an early second quarter fumble that resulted in a Co-Lin touchdown, and a mishandled punt, missed field goal, and failed fourth down conversion on the Co-Lin 22 in the second half were turning points in the East Central loss.

Co-Lin scored on its first three offensive possessions in the first half and added a 75-yard fumble return to jump out to a 24-14 halftime lead.

The Wolfpack wasted little time getting on the scoreboard to start the game. Co-Lin took the opening kickoff and drove 82 yards in 15 plays to the East Central nine-yard line before settling for a 36-yard field goal from sophomore kicker Greg Nickles of East Rankin Academy. With 7:09 to go in the first quarter, Co-Lin led 3-0.

Following an East Central punt, the visitors were on the move again. Co-Lin drove 68 yards in nine plays culminating in a two-yard touchdown plunge by sophomore running back Lakedric Lee of North Pike High School in McComb. The point after by Nickles put the Wolfpack up 10-0 after one quarter of play.

It appeared the Warriors might get back into the game on their next drive. East Central had moved to the Co-Lin 27 yard line, when freshman running back Tredarian Gamble fumbled and Co-Lin's Lashard Durr out of Harrison Central High School scooped up the ball and raced 75 yards untouched for the touchdown. The point after kick was good again, and the Wolfpack led 17-0 early in the second quarter.

On the ensuing Co-Lin kickoff, East Central quickly moved down the field for its first score of the night. The Warriors drove 77 yards in just five plays with Gamble, a product of Oxford High School (Ala.), scoring from the two. The extra point by freshman kicker Aaron Garrett of Meridian High School closed the gap to 17-7.

The Warriors immediately went back on offense at their own 49-yard line after a successful onside kick. Seven plays later, Gamble was in the end zone again, this time from six yards out. Garrett's point after was good, and East Central had pulled to within 17-14 with eight minutes remaining in the first half. The key play of the drive was a 31-yard strike from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket of French Camp High School to freshman tight end of Kalen Meggs of Richland that put the ball on the Wolfpack 10-yard line.

The Wolfpack would extend their lead back to 10 with 3:23 left in the half on a four-yard run by Lee. The nine-play drive covered 60 yards. Nickles PAT put Co-Lin up 24-14 after two quarters of play.

Gamble scored his third touchdown of the game on East Central's first drive of the third quarter. The Warriors took the opening kick off of the second half and drove 68 yards in 10 plays, with Gamble bulling over from the four. Garrett's kick was true and the Co-Lin lead was cut to 24-21.

East Central was poised to get ball right back with a chance to take the lead, but a mishandled punt was recovered by Co-Lin at the Warrior 37. Just four plays later, the Wolfpack was in the end zone again, this time on a 19-yard pass from freshman quarterback Garrett Kruzcek of Winter Park, Fla., to sophomore wide receiver Jacen Murphy out of Wilmington, N.C. After the PAT, Co-Lin led 31-21.

Just minutes later, Co-Lin would return the favor, mishandling an East Central punt with the Warriors recovering at the Wolfpack 20-yard line. A Garrett 33-yard field goal attempt was wide right, and the score remained 31-21, still in the third quarter.

The Warriors drove to the Co-Lin 22 early in the fourth quarter, but turned the ball over on downs after failing to convert a fourth and one.

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Week of Sept. 27, 2015

The East Central defense stiffened on the next Wolfpack possession and forced a Co-Lin punt. Three plays later, Hosket hit a wide open Jordan Thomas on a 60-yard scoring toss. The sophomore tight end out of Sumrall High School caught the ball at about the 15, shook off a Co-Lin defender and found the end zone. Garrett's kick pulled East Central to within 31-28.

Co-Lin lost 14 yards on its next possession, thanks in part to a Jadarius Ceasar sack of Kruzcek. The sophomore defensive end out of Paul W. Bryant High School in Tuscaloosa dropped the Co-Lin signal caller for a seven-yard loss. The Wolfpack were forced to punt from their own end zone giving East Central good field position at midfield with 5:28 left in the game.

The Warriors drove to the Wolfpack 22 yard line in the final two minutes of the contest. Hosket hit McIntosh for what appeared to be a first down on the Co-Lin 13, before he was hit hard and lost the football.

East Central finished with 435 yards total offense, including 253 yards passing and 182 yards on the ground. Hosket was 13 of 20 passing for 253 yards. Thomas had two catches for 85 yards and the touchdown. McIntosh had five receptions for 64 yards. On the ground, Gamble had 137 yards rushing on 23 carries and three touchdowns.

East Central will host the Hinds Community College Eagles in another South Division contest next Thursday, Oct. 1. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

East Central will honor the sophomore football players in ceremonies prior to the game against Hinds. It also will be Military Veterans and First Responders Appreciation Night. All veterans, first responders and their families will be admitted free to the game, invited to participate in the Warrior Club Tailgate, and be recognized during the game.

Appeared in:

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WEEK OF Sept. 26, 2015

East Central CC hosts No. 1 Copiah-Lincoln

The East Central Community College Warriors play host to undefeated and No. 1 ranked Copiah-Lincoln Community College Thursday and all Warrior fans are encouraged to wear black on the annual "Black-Out Bailey" night. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

"Black-Out Bailey" is sponsored by East Central's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

It also is "Be Our Guest" night, when students from all area high schools will be admitted free to the game, with one lucky student being selected to attempt a field goal to win free tuition for the 2016 fall semester.

East Central is 3-1 on the 2015 football campaign, while Copiah-Lincoln enters the contest at 4-0 and ranked No. 1 among all community colleges in the nation. The Warriors are coming off a 29-14 victory over Holmes Community College last Thursday in a game that played in Grenada.

Behind two touchdown passes from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket and 133 yards rushing by freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, East Central built a 16-7 halftime lead.

The Warriors got on the scoreboard on their first possession of the game, taking the opening kickoff and marching 44 yards to the Holmes 15 before the drive stalled. Freshman kicker Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School nailed a 32-yard field goal and East Central had a 3-0 lead with 11:42 left in the first quarter.

East Central expanded the lead to 10-0 two possessions later on an 18-yard scoring strike from Hosket to big tight end Jordan Thomas.

It was the first touchdown reception of the season for the 6-6, 278-pound sophomore out of Sumrall High School. The Warriors drive covered 42 yards in just four plays. Garrett kicked the point after.

On the Warrior's next possession, Hosket threw his second touchdown pass of the first half hitting freshman wide receiver Noah Nix out of West Lauderdale High School from 19 yards out.

Garrett's point after kick was blocked, but East Central led 16-0 with 7:27 left in the first half.

Holmes would answer on the ensuing possession with a 60-yard drive culminating in a six-yard touchdown run by sophomore running back Dre Massey of Greenville, S.C. The point after kick was good and the Warriors lead was cut to 16-7.

East Central had one more chance to put points on the scoreboard in the first half after driving 52 yards to the Holmes 24 with 23 seconds remaining, but a 41-yard field goal attempt by Garrett fell short.

Holmes, which entered the contest as the No. 1 rushing team in the MACJC averaging over 290 yards per game utilizing the triple option, was held to three first downs in the first half and forced to punt on four of its five possessions.

The Bulldogs vaunted running attack took over on the opening drive of the second half, as Holmes drove 65 yards in eight plays with sophomore running back Aquindus Henson of McComb barreling in from the five for the score. The PAT was good and the East Central lead was just two points, 16-14.

The Warriors answered on their first drive of the third quarter, going 72 yards in nine plays, capped by a 10-yard touchdown jaunt by freshman running back Mikell Daniels out of Forest High School. Garrett's PAT attempt was again blocked and East Central led 22-14.

East Central put the game out of reach with 4:25 remaining in the fourth quarter as Daniels bulled in from the one following a nine play, 66-yard drive. Garrett was true on the point after and the Warriors were up 29-14.

The Warriors ran the final seconds off the clock to end the game at the Holmes seven yard line following an interception by sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School.

Hosket finished the game 10 of 13 passing for 105 yards and two touchdowns. Gamble, out of Oxford High School in Alabama, carried the ball 24 times for 150 yards. Daniels finished with 103 yards rushing on 16 carries.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

No. 1 Co-Lin travels to battle No.19 East Central

Published 10:30am Thursday, September 24, 2015

Click here to subscribe and skip the survey.

WESSON – The Co-Lin Wolfpack will hit the road for the second time this season as they travel to Decatur to take on the No. Warriors Thursday night. The Wolfpack go into the game ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA poll for the third week consecutive week jumped into the No. 19 spot in the poll after receiving votes in the Week 3 poll.

The Warriors, under third year head coach Ken Karcher are entering the match-up after defeating the Holmes Community Colle a natural site game hosted by Grenada High School. The Warriors lead the Bulldogs from start to finish, rushing for over 300 y fashion, led by freshman wide receiver Tredarian Gamble who ended the night 150 yards rushing on 25 carries. East Central (3- tremendous improvement this season after going 4-16 in Coach Karcher's previous two seasons and sent a notice to the rest of are not a team to be taken lightly. Last year, the Wolves defeated East Central 43-0 behind a stellar special teams performance b State Bulldog Donald Gray who returned two punts for touchdowns in the contest. The Wolfpack hold a 43-29-3 record all-tim

Co-Lin is coming off a thrilling 29-26 overtime win over rival Southwest. Sophomore running back Lakedric Lee led the Wolf rushing 25 times for 136 yards and three touchdowns. The North Pike High School graduate scored the game-winning touchdo leads the Wolfpack in total offensive production with 609 yards and seven touchdowns.

Sophomore place kicker Greg Nickles earned MACJC Special Teams Player of the Week honors for the second time this seaso

3-for-3 on PAT and 3-of-4 field goal attempts including a 36-yarder as time expired to tie the game at 23-23 and send it to overtime.

On the other side of the ball, defensive end Paul James III put forth another strong performance as he wrapped up 10 tackles to lead the Wolfpack, including two sacks, bringing his season total to eight, good enough to be ranked second in the nation. In the defensive secondary, sophomores Lashard Durr, Adrian Scott, and freshman Jaquarius Landrews had two pass break-ups each, as the Co-Lin defense grounded Southwest for most of the evening.

Kickoff versus East Central is set for 6:30 p.m. at Warrior Stadium in Deactur. An audio broadcast of the game can be heard on WMJU 104.3 in Brookhaven or at www.colinathletics.com

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

Copiah-Lincoln holds off East Central, Northwest edges Hinds

No. 1 Copiah-Lincoln and No. 7 Northwest pull off close victories over ranked opponents.

By: Tyler Greever
Published: September 24, 2015, 11:51 pm

WJTV – Four of the top junior college teams in the country had nailbiters on Thursday night.

No. 1 Copiah-Lincoln Community College held off No. 19 East Central Community College 31-28 while No. 14 Hinds Community College lost in overtime to No. 7 Northwest Mississippi Community College, 38-37.

Click the video above for highlights of the Wolfpack's win and to hear how the Hinds-Northwest game ended.

WJTV

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____
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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

JUCO FOOTBALL

ALMOST AN UPSET

Late turnover dooms ECCC as No. 1 Co-Lin hangs on

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Devin McIntosh adds yardage to his reception as Copiah Lincoln Community College's Scooter Jones gets called for the face mask to tack on another 15 yards Thursday night in Decatur.

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Pg. 2

Week of Sept. 20, 2015

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — East Central Community College fumbled away a chance at stunning the No. 1 team junior college in the country Thursday night.

The separate Warrior fumbles, including one on their pivotal final drive, helped Copiah-Lincoln Community College avoid an upset bid to hang on for a dramatic 31-28 win over No. 19 ECCC.

Facing a third-and-12 from the Co-Lin 22 yard line with just over two minutes to play, ECCC quarterback Jesse Hosket hit Devin McIntosh across the middle of the field, but the sophomore was stripped of the ball, and Co-Lin pounced on the recovery at its own 13. The Wolfpack then ran out the clock to secure the win.

"I think the mistakes are what cost us the game," ECCC head coach Ken Karcher said. "We played right with them. We had opportunities, and when you make those mistakes, they're going to beat you. We'll keep getting better, and I think our young men are showing we can play with anybody in this league."

Warrior kicker Aaron Garrett missed a 32-yard field goal that would have cut the deficit to seven late in the third quarter.

31

28

Co-Lin (5-0, 2-0) led 24-14 at the half. Quarterback Garrett Kruzcek completed 25 of 28 pass attempts for 201 yards and two touchdowns. Lakedric Lee had 85 yards on 19 carries and two touchdowns.

"They're a good football team, and they're well-coached," Karcher said. "The first half (they moved the ball), but the second half I don't think they really did much. They're a good team, and good teams are going to move the ball at times."

ECCC (3-2, 0-2) outgained Co-Lin 435 yards to 309. Jesse Hosket completed 12 of his 20 attempts for 253 yards and a touchdown, while Tredarian Gamble rushed for 137 yards and three scores on 23 carries.

"I think our offensive line has set the tone all year long," Karcher said. "And then with the additions we've made at wide receiver and in the running game, and I can't say enough about Jesse Hosket; he just makes plays. It's fun to have him here, and our whole offense deserves a lot of credit."

A pair of fumbles by Gamble ultimately proved to be the difference, with one coming in each half.

With ECCC trailing 10-0 in the second quarter, Gamble fumbled inside Co-Lin territory, and it was scooped up and returned 75-yards for a touchdown by defensive back Lashard Durr.

Gamble's second fumble occurred early in the second half with ECCC trailing 24-21, when the freshman was unable to secure a bouncing punt and fumbled it away to the Wolfpack.

The running back had sent momentum into his team's corner with a 4-yard touchdown scamper to open the second half scoring.

"Our kids just kept believing," Karcher said. "We told them all week long it was going to be a four-quarter game. I thought it would go into overtime, actually, and we were real close to having that happen."

Yet the Wolfpack capitalized on his second-half hiccup as Kruzcek hit Dayall Harris for a touchdown strike to push Co-Lin's lead to 31-21.

Hosket kept ECCC's hopes alive with a 60-yard touchdown strike to Jordan Thomas midway through the fourth quarter.

"I think our young men have a lot of character," Karcher said. "We talk about that a lot in our program."

Co-Lin scored first after taking the

See ECCC on page B3

ECCC from page B1

opening kickoff and driving deep inside ECCC's territory on 16 plays before settling for a 26-yard field goal from Greg Nickles.

The Wolfpack then extended their advantage to 10-0 following a 10-play drive that resulted in a two-yard touchdown plunge from Lee.

Yet the Warriors managed to build some momentum, climbing back into the game with back-to-back scoring drives to cut the Co-Lin advantage to 17-14.

Hoskett found tight end Kalen Meggs streaking down the sideline for a 45-yard pass to set the Warriors up inside the 10. Two players later, Gamble scampered in from 3 yards out.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Warriors recovered the onside kick and scored seven players later on a 7-yard touchdown run from Gamble with 8 minutes to play in the first half.

"(Assistant coach Mickey) Mays felt we had an opportunity, and he made a great call at that point in time," Karcher said. "It was a great decision to go and do that."

Yet Co-Lin would respond by pushing its advantage back to two possessions after marching 60 yards on eight plays. The scoring drive was capped by Lee's 4-yard scamper into the end zone, giving the Wolves a 10-point halftime advantage.

East Central host Hinds Community College next Thursday.

"We will hurt a little bit for about 24 hours," Karcher said. "As I told the guys, we have Hinds next week, and this thing isn't over; I think you'll see us fighting until the end to make the playoffs."

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's Tredarian Gamble picks up big yardage against Copiah Lincoln Community College Thursday night in Decatur.

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

Thursday's football game

The East Central Community College Warriors play host to undefeated and No. 1 ranked Copiah-Lincoln Community College Thursday, Sept. 24, and all Warrior fans are encouraged to wear black on the annual "Black-Out Bailey" night.

Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

"Black-Out Bailey" is sponsored by East Central's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

It also is "Be Our Guest" night, when students from all area high schools will be admitted free to the game, with one lucky student being selected to attempt a field goal to win free tuition for the 2016 fall semester.

East Central is 3-1 on the 2015 football campaign, while Copiah-Lincoln enters the contest at 4-0 and ranked No. 1 among all community colleges in the nation.

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Week of Sept. 20, 2015

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East Central expanded the lead to 10-0 two possessions later on an 18-yard scoring strike from Hosket, a product of French Camp High School, to big tight end Jordan Thomas. It was the first touchdown reception of the season for the 6-6, 278-pound sophomore out of Sumrall High School. The Warriors drive covered 42 yards in just four plays. Garrett kicked the point after.

On the Warrior's next possession, Hosket threw his second touchdown pass of the first half hitting freshman wide receiver Noah Nix out of West Lauderdale High School from 19 yards out. Garrett's point after kick was blocked, but East Central led 16-0 with 7:27 left in the first half.

Holmes would answer on the ensuing possession with a 60-yard drive culminating in a six-yard touchdown run by sophomore running back Dre Massey of Greenville, S.C. The point after kick was good and the Warriors lead was cut to 16-7.

East Central had one more chance to put points on the scoreboard in the first half

The Bulldogs vaunted running attack took over on the opening drive of the second half, as Holmes drove 65 yards in eight plays with sophomore running back Aquindus Henson of McComb barreling in from the five for the score. The PAT was good and the East Central lead was just two points, 16-14.

The Warriors answered on their first drive of the third quarter, going 72 yards in nine plays, capped by a 10-yard touchdown jaunt by freshman running back Mikell Daniels out of Forest High School. Garrett's PAT attempt was again blocked

. Hosket finished the game 10 of 13 passing for 105 yards and two touchdowns. Gamble, out of Oxford High School in Alabama, carried the ball 24 times for 150 yards. Daniels finished with 103 yards rushing on 16 carries.

East Central returns home next Thursday, Sept. 24, after the two-game road trip to host No. 1 ranked Copiah-Lincoln Community College at 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

The MACJC South Division matchup with Copiah-Lincoln will be "Black-Out Bailey"

The game can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.eccc.edu or www.kicks967.com. In addition, MaxxSouth Sports will broadcast the game for tape delay showing on the MaxxSouth Broadband cable network.

Appeared in:

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

FOOTBALL: EAST CENTRAL 29, HOLMES 14

ECCC Warriors pick up division road win

East Central Community College scored two touchdowns in each half and the Warrior defense slowed down the top rushing attack in the conference to earn a hard fought 29-14 win over the Holmes Community College Bulldogs Thursday, Sept. 17.

The game was played at Grenada High School as Holmes celebrated Military Appreciation Night.

East Central improved to 3-1 overall on the season. The Warriors remain 0-1 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division play. Holmes fell to 1-3 overall. The Bulldogs are 0-1 in MACJC North Division play.

Behind two touchdown passes from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket and 133 yards rushing by freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, East Central built a 16-7 halftime lead.

East Central freshman running back Tredarian Gamble of Oxford High School (Ala.) rushed for 133 yards in the first half alone as the Warriors built an early 16-7 lead.

EC Photo

The Warriors got on the scoreboard on their first possession of the game, taking the opening kickoff and marching 44 yards to the Holmes 15 before the drive stalled. Freshman kicker Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School nailed a 32-yard field goal and East Central had a 3-0 lead with 11:42 left in the first quarter, after driving 52 yards to the Holmes 24 with 23 seconds remaining, but a 41-yard field goal attempt by Garrett fell short.

Holmes, which entered the contest as the No. 1 rushing team in the MACJC averaging over 290 yards per game utilizing the triple option, was held to three first downs in the first half and forced to punt on four of its five possessions.

and East Central led 22-14.

East Central put the game out of reach with 4:25 remaining in the fourth quarter as Daniels bulled in from the one following a nine play, 66-yard drive. Garrett was true on the point after and the Warriors were up 29-14.

The Warriors ran the final seconds off the clock to end the game at the Holmes seven yard line following an interception by sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School.

night and all East Central fans are encouraged to wear black for the game. It is also "Be Our Guest" night when students from all area high schools will be admitted free to the game, with one lucky student being selected to attempt a field goal to win free tuition for the 2016 fall semester.

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WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

Mississippi Gulf Coast smacks East Central, 30-14

Curtis Rockwell By **Curtis Rockwell**

on September 11, 2015 at 9:28 AM, updated September 11, 2015 at 9:33 AM

Mississippi Gulf Coast opened league play in fine fashion Thursday night.

And, the Bulldogs didn't let a poor performance the previous week spoil a great home opener.

The No. 14 Bulldogs (2-1) pulled away from East Central to win 30-14 at A.L. May Memorial Stadium. It was the first loss of the season for the Warriors.

"I'm real proud of the guys tonight," MGC head coach Chad Huff said. "We started out 1-0 in the South Division. That was our goal. We challenged the guys, it's all about your approach and how you come out ready to play."

The Bulldogs were coming off a lack luster performance in a loss at Northwest Mississippi last week. Chris Robinson scored on two touchdown runs, and T'Rod Daniels broke a long 88-yard, third-quarter touchdown that helped break East Central's back.

"The line was on point and blocked all the assignments," said Daniels, who finished with 188 yards on seven rushes. "I just had to make one guy miss, and I got outside and it broke."

Running up the middle, he broke a tackle at the line and bounced to the right sideline. He outran several East Central defenders, then cut back at the Warriors' 30-yard line to evade one last tackler before sprinting to the end zone to make the score 24-7.

"I thought the guys did a tremendous job of executing, making the right calls," Huff said. "I thought the tailbacks ran with a lot of passion. Sometimes you've got to make plays.

"We call it BYOB: Be Your Own Blocker. We challenged the running backs this week to make plays, extend plays and get yards after contact."

Joshua Rowland added two fourth-quarter field goals and was a perfect 3-for-3 on the night. He's missed only one of nine attempts this season, converting Thursday from 27, 37 and 28 yards.

Rowland opened the scoring five minutes into the game, but East Central scored on its next possession. Jesse Hosket threw a screen to Kabion Ento near the left sideline, and 48 yards later, the Warriors led 7-3 with 6:36 left in the first quarter.

Robinson plunged in from 3 yards out less than two minutes later, then again from the 1-yard line 9:35 before halftime.

The Gulf Coast defense benefited from the offense's improved performance, getting more time on the sidelines than last week. Outside the long screen pass in the first quarter, it allowed only a late-game Hosket touchdown pass to Ento.

"WE played together as a defense," Gulf Coast defensive end Isaiah Buggs said. "We got on track from the first quarter to the last. We became coachable this week. Last week, we weren't coachable. We stepped it up and made big plays."

Perhaps the biggest plays came just before half, when a muffed Gulf Coast snap set up East Central deep in Bulldogs territory with 20 seconds left. The defense held firm, and a missed field goal turned disaster into a rallying point.

"Those guys bounced back this week," Huff said. "We gave up that big screen early in the first quarter, but outside of that they did an outstanding job, even after being put in a tough situation."

Gulf Coast returns to action next week on the road at No. 15 Hinds, which improved to 3-0 with a 35-7 shellacking of Pearl River.

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The Sun Herald
No. 14 Bulldogs sink teeth into ECCC in home opener

By PATRICK OCHS

pochs@sunherald.com Twitter: PatrickOchsSeptember 10, 2015 Updated 3 hours ago

PERKINSTON -- East Central scored on its first possession of the game Thursday night at A.L. May Memorial Stadium.

After that it was almost all Gulf Coast as the No. 14 Bulldogs rolled the visiting Warriors 30-14 in their home opener.

"A bunch of guys stepped up tonight," coach Chad Huff said. "A lot of guys played with passion. We didn't play perfect but we played well enough to win a football game."

Gulf Coast kicker Joshua Rowland converted a 27-yard field goal, his first of three Thursday, on Gulf Coast's opening drive.

The defense forced a punt on the ensuing Warriors (2-1) possession, but Gulf Coast (2-1) bobbled the ball and ECCC recovered.

Five plays later, ECCC QB Jesse Hosket tossed a screen to receiver Kabion Ento on the left side. The 6-foot-3 Arkansas native picked up a couple blocks and raced 48 yards down the away sideline for a score.

The Warriors never mustered much of a threat after that and didn't score again until the final two minutes when Hosket and Ento connected again for a 19-yard score.

"We played with more emotion and intensity than we did last week," defensive coordinator Steve Davis said. "(After the turnover) nobody started pointing fingers. They just went out and did their job. I was proud of them for that."

Running wild

After struggling to find consistency on the ground during the first two weeks, Gulf Coast got plenty of production from its stable of running backs Thursday.

Sophomore Chris Robinson rushed for 89 yards on 16 carries, including touchdown runs of 1 and 3 yards.

The freshmen backs stole the spotlight, however. Bassfield's T'Rod Daniels ripped off 133 yards on seven carries and scored on an 88-yard dash down the home sideline to give Gulf Coast a 24-7 lead in the third quarter.

"That was unbelievable," Huff said. "We didn't draw up how he made those two or three guys miss down the sideline. That's what I've been saying. We've talked all week about special players making special plays and you have to have that.

"Some special guys made special plays tonight."

GeVonte Jones of Charleston chipped in 85 yards on 13 carries and Vancleave's Walter Williams rushed eight times for 24 yards, including a 19-yard scamper up the middle.

"It was a big breakout for the freshmen running backs," Huff said. "I've been telling them all along to just keep practicing, keep grinding, keep getting better because their time is coming. It came tonight and couldn't come at a better time.

"They ran with a lot of passion and a lot of heart. Just real proud of (the freshmen backs)."

Quarterback A.J. Erdely completed 13 of 21 passes for 120 yards.

Saving 7

The first half had a wild finish as Erdely was stripped from behind while trying to extend a play with 20 seconds remaining. Defensive lineman Derek Mahaffey scooped the ball and rumbled toward the Bulldogs' goal line but was pulled down from behind by Williams at the 9. The tackle ended up keeping the Warriors off the board. After an incomplete pass, East Central's kicker pushed a 26-yard attempt wide.

"You talk about the effort and playing hard," Huff said. "Somebody had to make that play. Walter was able to stay up and make the tackle and we held them. That's how you win games."

Big Hill

One noticeable change Thursday was the return of former Alabama lineman Brandon Hill back to the offense. After playing all last year at right guard, Hill, who is listed at 6-foot-5, 390 pounds, played the first two games this year at nose guard. Looking to shore up the offensive line, Huff moved Hill back to left guard.

"He's willing to do whatever we ask of him to do to win a ballgame," Huff said. "Brandon is a real unselfish kid and did a really good job."

Gulf Coast returns to the field next Thursday at Hinds.

WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

East Central Defeats Holmes

Posted: Thu 9:57 PM, Sep 17, 2015

By: ECCC Media Relations

East Central Community College scored two touchdowns in each half and the Warrior defense slowed down the top rushing attack in the conference to earn a hard fought 29-14 win over the Holmes Community College Bulldogs Thursday, Sept. 17.

The game was played at Grenada High School as Holmes celebrated Military Appreciation Night.

East Central improved to 3-1 overall on the season. The Warriors remain 0-1 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division play. Holmes fell to 1-3 overall. The Bulldogs are 0-1 in MACJC North Division play.

Behind two touchdown passes from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket and 133 yards rushing by freshman running back Tredarian Gamble, East Central built a 16-7 halftime lead.

The Warriors got on the scoreboard on their first possession of the game, taking the opening kickoff and marching 44 yards to the Holmes 15 before the drive stalled. Freshman kicker Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School nailed a 32-yard field goal and East Central had a 3-0 lead with 11:42 left in the first quarter.

East Central expanded the lead to 10-0 two possessions later on an 18-yard scoring strike from Hosket, a product of French Camp High School, to big tight end Jordan Thomas. It was the first touchdown reception of the season for the 6-6, 278-pound sophomore out of Sumrall High School. The Warriors drive covered 42 yards in just four plays. Garrett kicked the point after.

On the Warrior's next possession, Hosket threw his second touchdown pass of the first half hitting freshman wide receiver Noah Nix out of West Lauderdale High School from 19 yards out. Garrett's point after kick was blocked, but East Central led 16-0 with 7:27 left in the first half.

Holmes would answer on the ensuing possession with a 60-yard drive culminating in a six-yard touchdown run by sophomore running back Dre Massey of Greenville, S.C. The point after kick was good and the Warriors lead was cut to 16-7.

East Central had one more chance to put points on the scoreboard in the first half after driving 52 yards to the Holmes 24 with 23 seconds remaining, but a 41-yard field goal attempt by Garrett fell short.

Holmes, which entered the contest as the No. 1 rushing team in the MACJC averaging over 290 yards per game utilizing the triple option, was held to three first downs in the first half and forced to punt on four of its five possessions.

The Bulldogs vaunted running attack took over on the opening drive of the second half, as Holmes drove 65 yards in eight plays with sophomore running back Aquindus Henson of McComb barreling in from the five for the score. The PAT was good and the East Central lead was just two points, 16-14.

The Warriors answered on their first drive of the third quarter, going 72 yards in nine plays, capped by a 10-yard touchdown jaunt by freshman running back Mikell Daniels out of Forest High School. Garrett's PAT attempt was again blocked and East Central led 22-14.

East Central put the game out of reach with 4:25 remaining in the fourth quarter as Daniels bulled in from the one following a nine play, 66-yard drive. Garrett was true on the point after and the Warriors were up 29-14.

The Warriors ran the final seconds off the clock to end the game at the Holmes seven yard line following an interception by sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School.

Hosket finished the game 10 of 13 passing for 105 yards and two touchdowns. Gamble, out of Oxford High School in Alabama, carried the ball 24 times for 150 yards. Daniels finished with 103 yards rushing on 16 carries.

East Central returns home next Thursday, Sept. 24, after the two-game road trip to host No. 1 ranked Copiah-Lincoln Community College at 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

The MACJC South Division matchup with Copiah-Lincoln will be "Black-Out Bailey" night and all East Central fans are encouraged to wear black for the game. It is also "Be Our Guest" night when students from all area high schools will be admitted free to the game, with one lucky student being selected to attempt a field goal to win free tuition for the 2016 fall semester.

The game can be heard on WKOZ 98.3 "The Groove" or via audio stream at www.eccc.edu. Live streaming video with audio can be found at www.eccc.edu or www.kicks967.com. In addition, MaxxSouth Sports will broadcast the game for tape delay showing on the MaxxSouth Broadband cable network.

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WEEK OF September 6, 2015

JUCO FOOTBALL

ECCC falls to Mississippi Gulf Coast 30-14

From school reports

The No. 14-ranked Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs handed the East Central Community College Warriors their first defeat of the season Thursday 30-14 in a Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division matchup.

East Central falls to 2-1 overall on the season, and 0-1 in MACJC South Division play. Gulf Coast improved to 2-1 overall, and 1-0 in division play.

Gulf Coast scored on its first three possessions of the game to pull out to a 17-7 halftime lead. The Bulldogs points came on a 28-yard field goal, a 3-yard run following a 65-yard drive and a 1-yard plunge on a fourth and one following an 85-yard drive.

East Central's lone first half score came when sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento, a product of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., took a screen pass from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket out of French Camp High School and weaved 48 yards to the end zone. The point after by freshman kicker Aaron Garrett of Meridian High School was good and the Warriors led for the only time on the evening, 7-3.

The Warriors had a chance to close the gap just before the half when sophomore defensive lineman Derek Mahaffey of Oxford High School (Ala.) picked up a fumble by Gulf Coast quarterback A.J. Erdely and returned it 29 yards to the Bulldog nine yard line with eight seconds remaining in the second quarter. But an errant Hosket pass and a missed Garrett field goal attempt from 26 yards kept the first half score at 17-7.

Photo courtesy of ECCC

East Central wide receiver Kabion Ento turns up field on a 48-yard screen pass for a touchdown to give the Warriors an early 7-3 lead over Gulf Coast.

East Central also lost a fumble deep in Gulf Coast territory on the 15-yard line in the first quarter to thwart another scoring opportunity.

On its second possession of the third quarter, East Central tackled the Gulf Coast punter after an errant snap and took over on the Bulldogs' 49. The Warriors drove inside the Gulf Coast 30 before losing 10 yards on a fumbled pitch, resulting in a Garrett punt. Gulf Coast took over on its own 14 following the punt, and two plays later extended its lead to 24-7 on an electrifying 88-yard run by T-Rod Daniels.

Gulf Coast added a 27-yard field goal on the second play of the final quarter and a 28-yard field goal with 8:56 remaining in the game to push the lead to 30-7.

East Central would find the end zone one more time with 2:46 remaining in the game. After a 42-yard punt return by freshman wide receiver Tredarian Gamble, a product of Oxford High School (Ala.), Hosket and Ento connected for the second time in the game, this time from 19 yards out. Garrett's point after made the final score 30-14.

Hosket finished the game 19 of 35 passing for 148 yards and two touchdowns. Ento caught seven passes for 87 yards and two touchdowns. Freshman running back Mikell Daniels out of Forest High School led the Warriors in rushing with 44 yards on 12 carries.

East Central hits the road again next week to face Holmes Community College at 7 p.m. next Thursday.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

Area students invited to 'Be Our Guest Night' at ECCC

Area high school students will be special guests of East Central Community College when the Warriors battle Copiah-Lincoln Community College Thursday, Sept. 24 on the Decatur campus. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m. at Bailey Stadium.

"We encourage all area high school students to come enjoy a night of exciting football on us," said Dr. Randall E. Lee, vice president for student services. "For those who have not attended a Warrior football game, you will be surprised not only with the exciting competition on the field but also with the talent of our amazing cheerleaders, Centralettes dance line, and one of the largest and best marching bands in the state, the Wall O' Sound!"

Lee said the special guests (9th through 12th grade students) will be admitted free to the football game and will be recognized throughout the game. Door prizes will be awarded and one of the visiting students will have an opportunity to win free tuition for one semester by successfully kicking a 20-yard field goal during halftime activities. Tuition is currently set at $990 per semester.

The evening is also being hailed as "Black-Out Bailey" night and those in attendance are encouraged to wear black to support the Warriors. The special activity is being hosted by Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

For more information on "Be Our Guest Night," contact Romonica Evans in Student Services, 601-635-6300 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 300. Her e-mail address is revans@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

Mississippi Gulf Coast Bulldogs entertain East Central Thursday night

Posted: Sep 09, 2015 5:15 PM CST
Updated: Sep 09, 2015 5:15 PM CST

By AJ Giardina CONNECT

PERKINSTON, MS (WLOX) - The Gulf Coast Bulldogs are eager to open the home slate of games at A.L. May Memorial Stadium Thursday.

The Bulldogs (1-1) are coming off a 26-10 loss at Northwest last week and dropped to No. 14 in the NJCAA poll released on Wednesday.

The Warriors played their first two games in Decatur and knocked off Mississippi Delta 34-0 and Coahoma 46-13 with 6-foot-4, 210 pound sophomore Jesse Hosket leading the East Central offensive attack. He's completed 58.5 percent of his passes for 429 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions.

Gulf Coast coast Chad Huff said, "They're 2-0 and playing with a lot of confidence. We've had a good week of practice and need to control what we can control."

The Bulldogs defense will have to keep an eye on Warriors playmaker Kabion Ento. He's hauled in eight catches for 227 yards and two touchdowns. He's netting 28.4 yards-per-reception. Besides having success in the air, East Central running back Donterrius Poe has rushed for 176 yards and two touchdowns, averaging 8.8 yards per carry. The Gulf Coast defense can't just concentrate on Poe, since Savon Robinson has added 120 yards rushing.

Bulldogs linebackers Reggio Dean and James Graves have made their presence known. Dean has 12 tackles, 1 forced fumble, 1 fumble recovery and 1 interception. Graves has piled up 19 tackles while freshman defensive end Isaiah Buggs has 12 tackles.

After completing 19 of 30 pass attempts for 294 yards and two touchdowns in a 40-23 win at Northeast in the opening game, Gulf Coast quarterback A.J. Erdely connected on only 9 of 20 passes for 78 yards. He was sacked 8 times.

Ishmel Morrow of Ocean Springs has 11 catches for 226 yards and two touchdowns. Chris Robinson has rushed for 117 yards and two TDs.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

ECCC Receives Votes in Weekly JUCO Poll

Posted: Wed 2:31 PM, Sep 09, 2015

By: ECCC Media Relations

The undefeated East Central Community College football team received votes in the weekly National Junior College Athletic Association Top 20 football rankings released today, which would place the Warriors at No. 23 in the nation if teams were officially ranked past No. 20.

East Central received four points from the NJCAA Football Poll Committee, and was included among the three schools outside of the Top 20 receiving votes. The Warriors are just behind Iowa Western and Trinity College as the teams that missed being ranked in the Top 20.

A total of five Mississippi teams are in the NJCAA Top 20, including East Central's next opponent, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. The Warriors travel to Perkinston to face No. 14 Gulf Coast at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10. Other East Central opponents in the Top 20 include No. 1 Copiah-Lincoln, which visits Decatur on Sept. 24, and No. 15 Hinds, which will face the Warriors in Decatur on Oct. 1.

The East Central Warriors are 2-0 on the season following a 34-0 shutout of Mississippi Delta and a 46-13 win over Coahoma last Thursday.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

The Sun Herald

No. 14 Gulf Coast looks to get back on track against East Central

By PATRICK OCHS

No. 14 Gulf Coast is planning on tweaking a few things heading into Thursday's home opener at A.L. May Memorial Stadium.

Coming off of a 26-10 loss at Northwest, coach Chad Huff said the Bulldogs (1-1) need to get back to the basics against the visiting East Central C.C. Warriors (2-0).

"This week is about controlling what we can control and that's ourselves," Huff said. "That's just giving great effort, simplifying things so we know what we're doing. We need to play with some emotion, play for the love of the game. I think we've done that for the most part."

While declining to give specifics, Huff said the Bulldogs will have some changes in their lineup for the 7 p.m. kickoff.

"We're trying to find our identity," he said. "That's what we have to do, find our identity."

"(We're) just trying to build some more depth here and there. We're going to make some adjustments on both sides of the ball that will hopefully help us out a little bit."

Keeping quarterback A.J. Erdely upright will be a main focus this week after the former Middle Tennessee quarterback was sacked by the Rangers eight times. He ended up completing 8 of 21 passes for 78 yards and an interception.

Huff didn't lay the blame on any one position, instead saying everyone needs to do a better job against a tough Warriors squad.

"The crazy thing is I thought the line showed the most improvement from Week 1 to 2," Huff said. "Some of those situations occurred due to the quarterback, not necessarily the protection. (Erdely needs to) get through his progressions and getting rid of the football when we need him to.

"We have to have all 11 guys executing and winning their individual battles."

Scouting the Warriors

East Central comes to town fresh off of two convincing wins over Mississippi Delta (34-0) and Coahoma (46-13).

The Warriors received votes in the latest NJCAA Poll, released Wednesday.

Huff said he expects East Central to do a little bit of everything. His defense will have to be especially aware of 6-foot-3 receiver Kabion Ento. Through two games, the Pine Bluff, Ark., native has caught eight passes for 227 yards and two touchdowns.

In addition, Donterrius Poe and Savon Robinson lead ECCC's rushing attack, combining for 296 yards and four scores.

The 6-foot-4 trigger man, Jesse Hosket, has completed 58.4 percent of his throws for 429 yards -- good enough for fourth in the MACJC -- and four touchdowns.

"They run a lot of formations offensively. They're going to run the football, they're going to run some play action and throw it deep. They have some big receivers like Kabion Ento," Huff said. "They chunk it deep to him down the field. We're going to have to keep everything in front of us defensively, be physical at the point of attack, stop the run and not give up the big play. They have a couple of good running backs and have a lot of explosive (plays) in their first two games.

"They have a chance to score from anywhere on the field."

Extra points

ECCC has four Coast kids on its roster: Vancleave lineman Lucas Orchard, Harrison Central running back Dwayne Barnett, Hancock lineman Chase Freeman and Pascagoula linebacker Tisdale Simms ... Mississippi State signee Cam Myers played in one of Gulf Coast's first two games. Huff expects him to see the field Thursday. He has yet to show up on the stat sheet. "He's definitely a guy we need to come on," Huff said.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

FOOTBALL: ECCC 46, COAHOMA 13

Warriors open season 2-0 after stopping

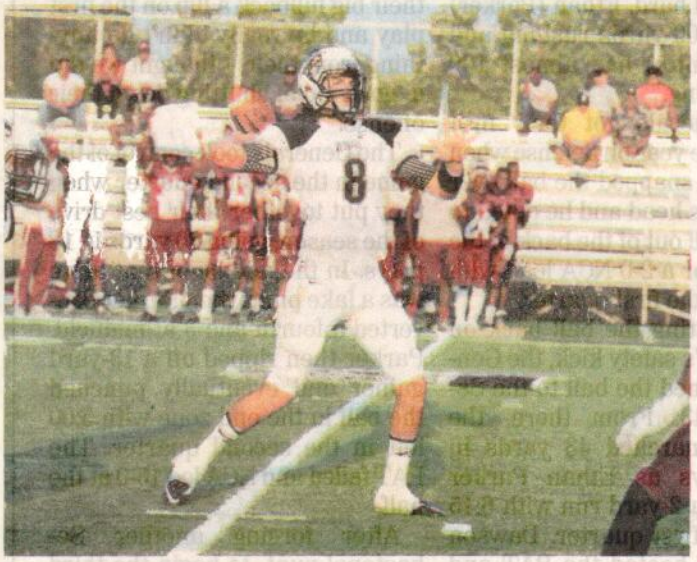
By ECCC sports information

Quarterback Jesse Hosket tossed three touchdown passes, defensive end Jalon Sangster returned an interception 22 yards for a touchdown, and running back Donterrius Poe raced 76 yards for a touchdown to power the East Central Community College Warriors to a 46-13 win over the visiting Coahoma Community College Tigers Sept. 3 in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

ECCC is 2-0 on the season. Coahoma fell to 0-2.

"I thought our guys played hard. I don't think we always played smart, especially in the first quarter," East Central Head Coach Ken Karcher said. "I thought our defense misjudged some things and didn't do the things they are usually doing. ... But I thought our guys played hard and with great enthusiasm, and we had a lot of big plays on both sides of the ball."

While managing only eight first downs, East Central put 27 points on the scoreboard in the first half for the second straight week.



Warrior quarterback Jesse Hosket passed for three touchdowns in East Central's win over Coahoma.

EC Photo

The Warriors took an early 3-0 lead after Coahoma bobbled the snap on a punt attempt and East Central recovered on the Tigers' 18-yard line. Three plays later, freshman kicker Aaron Garrett was good on a 36-yard field goal and East Central led 3-0 with 12:19 left in the first quarter.

Coahoma grabbed the lead with a 45-yard touchdown pass by a scrambling Dominic Marino to running back Earnest Butler.

After a failed fake punt, East Central's Hosket hit a wide-open sophomore wide receiver Devin McIntosh on a 35-yard scoring strike.

Less than a minute later, sophomore defensive back Devontae Wilson from Warren Central High School in Vicksburg batted a Marino pass up in the air and the freshman Sangster pulled it down at the 22 and rambled to the end zone with Coahoma defenders hanging on.

"I just looked up and my eyes just got big," Sangster said of his big play. "I just took it. I realized how close I was to the end zone, and I was thinking 'I'm going to get this.' I was determined in my mind to get in. It felt awesome and to turn around and have my teammates right there to celebrate with me, that was an awesome feeling."

East Central extended its lead on the next offensive possession with an 18-yard touchdown pass from Hosket.

Coahoma marched right back with Marino hitting wide receiver Devonta Jones on a 35-yard scoring strike. Garrett connected on a 25-yard field goal and the Warriors would take 27-13 lead to the locker room at the half.

On the Warriors' second

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Coahoma Tigers

possession, Hosket connected with Ento, this time for 51 yards and the score.

Garrett added a 28-yard field goal with 8:43 remaining in the game after Breyron Jackson, a freshman defensive end out of Germantown High School in Canton, picked off a Marino pass at the Coahoma 16 yard line.

Moments later, the speedy freshman running back Poe, a product of Philadelphia High School, raced 76 yards for another Warrior score with 5:31 left in the game. Garrett's point after made score 44-13.

"I give all the credit to the offensive line," Poe said of his run. "I saw the hole and I just hit it to the outside and just ran. I'm just going in there to do my part and do my best whenever they call my name."

Just 20 seconds later, East Central sophomore defensive lineman Derek Mahaffey tackled Coahoma's running back in the end zone for a safety and the Warriors built the lead to the final 46-13 margin.

East Central piled up 424 yards total offense on the evening. The Warrior defense produced five sacks, two blocked kicks, three interceptions, and a safety, while holding the Coahoma offense without a first down in the second half.

Hosket, a sophomore, finished the game 11 of 24 passing for 230 yards and three touchdowns. Ento was on the receiving end of five of those passes for 133 yards and a touchdown. Poe finished with 116 yards on nine carries and a touchdown. Sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School in Collins also had an interception for the Warriors.

East Central hits the road next week for the first time this season traveling to Perkinston on Thursday, Sept. 10, to face the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. from A.L. May Stadium. The Warriors will look to start a season 3-0 for the first time since 2000.

Appeared in:

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WEEK OF Sept 6, 2015

Sangster's touchdown gives ECCC spark in big win

From Austin Bishop
Winston County Journal

For Jalon Sangster it was a blur.

What the freshman East Central Community College defensive end from Louisville remembers most about his 22-yard interception return for a touchdown was the celebration in the end zone.

"It was very exciting," Sangster said. "The main thing was that I got to celebrate with all of my teammates after I scored. We are all in this together."

Sangster's touchdown, his first since scoring as a sophomore in high school at LHS, gave the homestanding Warriors a 17-7 lead late in the first quarter, as ECCC went on to post an impressive 46-13 win over visiting Coahoma Thursday night to improve to 2-0 on the year.

A pass was batted into the air by defensive back Devontae Wilson, setting the stage for Sangster's heroics.

"I just looked up and saw the ball floating in the air," Sangster said. "The next thing I knew I was running into the end zone. I was in a pile of people (when he first picked the ball off) and I just came out it."

Sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket, a French Camp Academy graduate, tossed a trio of touchdown passes to help lead the ECCC offensive attack in the game. Hosket played at Itawamba Community College last year before transferring to East Central at the semester break last year. His first start came in the season-opening 34-0 win over Mississippi Delta Community College.

"I am really enjoying it a lot," Hosket said of the experience at East Central. "There is a lot of community support and I love being here. I think last year (at Itawamba Community College) I was discouraged because I wasn't getting as much of an opportunity as I would have liked. The first two games have really boosted my confidence a little bit."

He said the Warriors have kept the offense simple over the first two weeks as the team learns to work together. "I am really comfortable with the system," he said. "Now we are excited about the challenge we have ahead of us."

That challenge comes in the form of a Mississippi Gulf Coast team that s 1-1 on the season, splitting a pair of road games. The Bulldogs opened the season with a 40-23 win over Northeast Mississippi, before falling 26-10 to Northwest Mississippi last week. The Warriors visit the Bulldogs at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Jalon Sangster scoring his touchdown.

Photo by Mike Ro

The Warriors fell behind 7-3 against Coahoma on Thursday, before Hosket hit Devin McIntosh with a 35-yard touchdown pass to make it 10-7 with 5:22 left to play in the first quarter. Sangster's touchdown made it 17-7 before Hosket, who hit on 11-of-24 passes for 230 yards on the night, made it 24-7 when the Warriors closed out a 78-yard drive with an 18-yard scoring pass from Hosket to Toriano Howard. The touchdown was set up by a 52-yard completion from Hosket to Kabion Ento.

Coahoma cut it to 24-13 before Aaron Garett kn through a 25-yard field g give the Warriors a 14- halftime lead. Garrett had a 36-yard field goal i first quarter.

Hosket and Ento com again on the Warriors' s possession of the second this time resulting in yard touchdown to pu winners up 34-13.

East Central closed o scoring with a 28-yard goal by Garrett, a 7 touchdown run by Dont Poe and a safety when Mahaffey tackled a Coa ballcarrier in the end zo

Ento led ECCC in rec with five catches for yards, while Poe rush 116 yards on nine atte ECCC picked up 424 ya total offense on the nigh

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WEEK OF Sept 6. 2015

ECCC rips Coahoma to

Quarterback Jesse Hosket tossed three touchdown passes, defensive end Jalon Sangster returned an interception 22 yards for a touchdown, and running back Donterrius Poe raced 76 yards for a touchdown to power the East Central Community College Warriors to a 46-13 win over the visiting Coahoma Community College Tigers Sept. 3 in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

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"I thought our guys played hard. I don't think we always played smart, especially in the first quarter," East Central Head Coach Ken Karcher said. "I thought our defense misjudged some things and didn't do the things they are usually doing. ... But I thought our guys played hard and with great enthusiasm, and we had a lot of big plays on both sides of the ball."

While managing only eight first downs, East Central was able to put 27 points on the scoreboard in the first half for the second straight week.

The Warriors would take an early 3-0 lead after Coahoma bobbled the snap on a punt attempt and East Central recovered on the Tigers' 18-yard line. Three plays later, freshman kicker Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School was good on a 36-yard field goal and East Central led 3-0 with 12:19 left in the first quarter.

Coahoma would quickly grab the lead with an 80-yard drive capped by a 45-yard touchdown pass by a scrambling Dominic Marino to running back Earnest Butler. The point after was good and the Tigers had a 7-3 lead.

Coahoma recovered its ensuing onside kick and took over at the East Central 45 yard line. Unable to move the ball, the Tigers lost 14 yards on a fake punt on fourth down and the Warriors took over deep in Coahoma territory.

On the very next play, East Central's Hosket, a product of French Camp High School, hit a wide-open sophomore wide receiver Devin McIntosh of Amory High School on a 35-yard scoring strike. Garrett's point after was good and East Central led 10-7 with 5:22 to go in the opening quarter.

Less than a minute later, sophomore defensive back Devontae Wilson from Warren Central High School in Vicksburg batted a Marino pass up in the air and the freshman Sangster from Louisville High School pulled it down at the 22 and rambled to the end zone with Coahoma defenders hanging on. Garrett's kick was good again and the Warriors led 17-7.

East Central extended its lead on the next offensive possession with a 78-yard drive culminating with an 18-yard touchdown pass from Hosket to sophomore wide receiver Toriano Howard out of Quitman High School.

Coahoma marched right back with a 78-yard drive of its own, with Marino hitting wide receiver Devonta Jones on a 35-yard scoring strike. The extra point was blocked and the Warriors' lead was cut to 24-13 with 11:09 to play in the first half.

On its next possession, East Central drove 66 yards before stalling at

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improve to 2-0

the Coahoma nine-yard line. Garrett connected on a 25-yard field goal and the Warriors would take 27-13 lead to the locker room at the half.

Hosket came out throwing again in the second half. On the Warriors' second possession, he connected with Ento, this time for 51 yards and the score. With Garrett's extra point, East Central was up 34-13 with 11:40 to go in the third quarter.

In the fourth, Garrett added a 28-yard field goal and then speedy freshman running back Poe, a product of Philadelphia High School, raced 76 yards for another Warrior score with 5:31 left in the game. Garrett's point after made score 44-13. Just 20 seconds later, East Central recorded a safety to set the final.

Hosket, a sophomore, finished the game 11 of 23 passing for 241 yards and three touchdowns. Ento was on the receiving end of five of those passes for 132 yards and a touchdown. Poe finished with 133 yards on 11 carries and a touchdown. Sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School in Collins also had an interception for the Warriors.

East Central will visit Perkinston on Thursday, Sept. 10, to face the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. from A.L. May Stadium. The Warriors will look to start a season 3-0 for the first time since 2000.

"Gulf Coast is a great program and one of our perennial powers," Karcher said. "I don't know when the last time East Central has even beat them."

Appeared in:

Carthaginian X

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

WEEK OF Aug 23, 2015

East Central Football Opens Season 2-0 After Stopping Coahoma 46-13

Posted: Thu 9:50 PM, Sep 03, 2015 *By: ECCC Media Relations*

-- Sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket tossed three touchdown passes, defensive end Jalon Sangster returned an interception 22 yards for a touchdown, and freshman running back Donterrius Poe raced 76 yards for a touchdown to power the East Central Community College Warriors to a 46-13 win over the visiting Coahoma Community College Tigers Sept. 3 in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

ECCC is 2-0 on the season. Mississippi Delta fell to 0-2.

While managing only eight first downs, East Central was able to put 27 points on the scoreboard in the first half for the second straight week.

The Warriors would take an early 3-0 lead after Coahoma bobbled the snap on a punt attempt and East Central recovered on the Tigers' 18-yard line. Three plays later, freshman kicker Aaron Garrett out of Meridian High School was good on a 36-yard field goal and East Central led 3-0 with 12:19 left in the first quarter.

Coahoma would quickly grab the lead with an 80-yard drive capped by a 45-yard touchdown pass by a scrambling Dominic Marino to running back Earnest Butler. The point after was good and the Tigers had a 7-3 lead.

Coahoma recovered its ensuing onside kick and took over at the East Central 45 yard line. Unable to move the ball, the Tigers lost 14 yards on a fake punt on fourth down and the Warriors took over deep in Coahoma territory. On the very next play, East Central's Hosket, a product of French Camp High School, hit a wide-open sophomore wide receiver Devin McIntosh of Amory on a 35-yard scoring strike. Garrett's point after was good and East Central led 10-7 with 5:22 to go in the opening quarter.

Less than a minute later, sophomore defensive back Devontae Wilson from Warren Central High School in Vicksburg batted a Marino pass up in the air and freshman defensive end Sangster from Louisville High School pulled it down at the 22 and rambled to the end zone with Coahoma defenders hanging on. Garrett's kick was good again and the Warriors led 17-7.

East Central extended its lead on the next offensive possession with a 78-yard drive culminating with an 18-yard touchdown pass from Hosket to sophomore wide receiver Toriano Howard out of Quitman High School. The key play of the drive was a 52-yard pass from Hosket to sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento out of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark. Garrett's kick was good and East Central was up 24-7.

Coahoma marched right back with a 78-yard drive of its own, with Marino hitting wide receiver Devonta Jones on a 35-yard scoring strike. The PAT was blocked and the Warriors' lead was cut to 24-13 with 11:09 to play in the first half.

On its next possession, East Central drove 66 yards before stalling at the Coahoma nine-yard line. Garrett connected on a 25-yard field goal and the Warriors would take 27-13 lead to the locker room at the half.

Hosket came out throwing again in the second half. On the Warriors' second possession, he connected with Ento, this time for 51 yards. With Garrett's extra point East Central was up 34-13 with 11:40 to go in the third quarter.

Neither team would score again until midway through the final quarter. Aaron Garrett added a 28-yard field goal with 8:43 remaining in the game after Breyron Jackson, a freshman defensive end out of Germantown High School in Canton, picked off a Marino pass at the Coahoma 16 yard line. Garrett's kick pushed the East Central lead to 37-13.

Moments later, speedy freshman running back Poe, a product of Philadelphia High School, raced 76 yards for another Warrior score with 5:31 left in the game. Garrett's point after made score 44-13.

Just 20 seconds later, East Central sophomore defensive lineman Derek Mahaffey out of Oxford High School (Ala.) tackled Coahoma's running back in the end zone for a safety and the Warriors built the lead to the final 46-13 margin.

East Central piled up 424 yards total offense on the evening, while the Warrior defense held the Coahoma offense without a first down in the second half.

Hosket finished the game 11 of 24 passing for 230 yards and three touchdowns. Ento was on the receiving end of five of those passes for 133 yards and a touchdown. Poe finished with 116 yards on nine carries and a touchdown. Sophomore safety Austin Balthazor out of Seminary High School in Collins also had an interception for the Warriors.

East Central hits the road next week for the first time this season traveling to Perkinston on Thursday, Sept. 10, to face the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. from A.L. May Stadium.

APPEARED I

CARTHAGINI

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

Other publications X

www.wtok.com

WEEK OF Aug. 30, 2015

WARRIORS ROLL

East Central CC runs past Coahoma CC 46-13

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

Coahoma Community College's Domini Marino takes a hard hit from East Central Community College's Jaylon Lofton Thursday night in Decatur.

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — Jalon Sangster couldn't believe what came fluttering his way.

The East Central Community College defensive tackle hauled in a batted pass and rumbled down the field, slinging tacklers off his 6-foot, 260 pound frame on his way to a 22-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Sangster and the rest of the Warriors defense combined to tally five sacks, record two blocked kicks, two interceptions and a safety while quarterback Jesse Hosket threw for 230 yards and three touchdowns as East Central CC blew past Coahoma Community College Thursday, winning 46-13.

Sangster's score put his team ahead 17-7 with 4:28 remaining in the first quarter and the Warriors never looked back.

"I just looked up and my eyes just got big," Sangster said. "I just took it. I realized how close I was to the end zone, and I was thinking 'I'm going to get this.' I was determined in my mind to get in. It felt awesome and to turn around and have my teammates right there to celebrate with me, that was an awesome feeling."

East Central Community College (2-0) has won its first two games of the season for the first

See ECCC on page B2——

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

pg. 2

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of Aug. 30, 2015

ECCC from page B1

time since the 2007 campaign.

"I thought our guys played hard. I don't think we always played smart, especially in the first quarter," East Central CC coach Ken Karcher said. "I thought our defense misjudged some things and didn't do the things they are usually doing. ... But I thought our guys played hard and with great enthusiasm, and we had a lot of big plays on both sides of the ball."

The Warriors led at the half 27-13 before breaking it open in the second half.

Running back and former Philadelphia High School star Donterrius Poe contributed to the second-half rout with a 76-yard touchdown run. Poe finished the game with 116 yards on nine carries.

"I give all the credit to the offensive line," Poe said of his run. "I saw the hole and I just hit it to the outside and just ran. I'm just going in there to do my part and do my best whenever they call my name."

ECCC finished the game with 424 yards of offense, while Coahoma finished with 371 after racking up 264 yards in the first half.

"I have to give a shout out to our (defensive coordinator) Coach (Mickey) Mays," Sangster said. "He's the one that puts the work in with us. We have great leadership from the sophomores and they inspire us to keep going no matter what. If we make a mistake, we just want to keep going and keep giving 100 percent."

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Central Community College's hauls in a touchdown reception against Coahoma Community College's Latrell Marks Thursday night in Decatur.

ECCC place kicker and former Meridian High School standout Aaron Garrett connected on three field goals in the game, including a 28 yarder in the second half.

Garrett opened and closed the scoring in the first half. The former Wildcat got the scoring started with a 36-yard field goal early in the first quarter. The kick was set up by a blocked punt.

Coahoma then took the lead after quarterback Dominic Marino connected with Earnest Butler for a 45-yard touchdown strike.

Four possessions later, Hosket found Devin McIntosh for his first touchdown toss of the game, a 35-yard pass that put the Warriors ahead 10-7 with 5:22 to play in the first.

Sangster then came up with his game-changing interception and touchdown.

ECCC pushed its lead to 17-7 early in the second quarter after Hosket hit a streaking Toriano Howard for an 18-yard touchdown pass.

Marino then recorded his second touchdown toss of the half as he connected with Devonta Jones on a 35-yard score. The extra point was blocked and ECCC led 24-13 with 11:09 to play in the half.

Garrett concluded the first half scoring with his second field of the half, a 25-yarder to give his squad a 27-13 halftime advantage.

"We're really good on offense," Poe said. "We practice hard and we do a lot of work to make sure we keep improving."

On the third possession of the second half, Hosket picked up right where he left off in the first, connecting with Kabion Ento for a 51-yard touchdown for his third touchdown throw of the game.

ECCC will look to improve to 3-0 for the first time 2000 campaign when it travels to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College next week.

"Gulf Coast is a great program and our perennial powers," Karcher said. "I don't know when the last time East Central has even beat them. But it's going to be about us. We have to make sure we play flawless football. We can't turn the ball – we've been good with that so far. We can't mistakes and we can't have penalties, because to beat a championship team we're going to have to be on top of our game. But I am excited to go down and play them."

WEEK OF August 30, 2015

East Central

Coach: Ken Karcher
Last year: 3-6 (1-5)
Buzz: After two difficult seasons, East Central's prospects of a winning season are looking up. An improving defense will be Karcher's key to success. Safety Austin Balthazor and cornerbacks Jaylon Lofton and Trey Sloan will have a chance to see that through with the aid of defensive ends Jadarius Ceasar and Courtney Stamper and defensive tackle Rosheem Collins. In 2014, Ceasar amassed 61 tackles, including four sacks.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____
NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____
SPIRIT OF MORTON _____
MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____
SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____
WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____
CLARION-LEDGER X

WEEK OF Aug. 30, 2015

East Central CC opens season with convincing victory

The East Central Community College Football Warriors jumped out to a 27-0 first half lead on the way to a season-opening 34-0 win over the visiting Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans Aug. 27 in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

ECCC is 1-0 on the young season. Mississippi Delta fell to 0-1.

East Central returned a first quarter interception for a touchdown and then scored on three straight offensive possessions in the second quarter to put the game away early.

"We now have some ability on the outside that anybody can catch it and take it the distance," said third-year Warrior Head Coach Ken Karcher after the first opening game win in his East Central tenure. "We haven't had that in two years. It's going to be exciting to see how these guys progress, but I was pleased with how they played in the first game.

"This win is very important, and it will help give us momentum heading into the second game of the year. But like I said to our guys, we have to learn how to win, because it hasn't happened around here."

The Warriors got the first half scoring started when freshman linebacker Pat Walker, a product of North Forrest High School in Hattiesburg, stepped in front of a Devonte McPherson pass and returned it 14 yards for the touchdown to give East Central a 7-0 lead with 6:59 remaining in the first quarter. Aaron Garrett, a freshman from Meridian, kicked the point after.

East Central would extend the lead to 14-0 on its next offensive possession, when sophomore running back Savon Robinson out of Raymond High School scampered 20 yards for the score. The big play of the 98-yard drive was a 49-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket of French Camp to freshman wide receiver Henri Murphy of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark. Garrett kicked the PAT.

The Warriors got on the scoreboard yet again on their next possession, when wide receiver Kabion Ento, also out of Dollarway in Pine Bluff, took a screen pass from Hosket and raced 79-yards for the score. Garrett again was good on the point after. With 9:22 remaining in the first half, East Central led 21-0.

"That was one of my first times doing that (making a long catch and run)," Ento said. "It felt good. I was just hoping nobody was going to catch me."

Robinson, a 6-0, 190-pound speedster, wasn't done in the first half as he raced 62 yards to the end zone the next time the Warriors had the ball to give East Central a 27-0 lead. Garrett's point after was no good.

The score remained 27-0 until 8:09 left in the game when freshman running back Donterrius Poe of Philadelphia High School scored from 12 yards out. The point after was good by Garrett and the Warriors led 34-0.

A stingy Warrior defense forced eight Trojan punts, an interception, and a fumble in their first 11 possessions of the game. East Central held the Trojans to 222 yards offense and sacked Delta quarterbacks five times.

"I think our defensive coaches have done a fine job," Karcher said. "We've upgraded our talent. … We're going to build this program around defense, and I thought our guys played the way we expect to play."

Robinson finished with 119 yards rushing on 10 carries, with two touchdowns, while Poe tallied 43 yards on nine carries and a touchdown. Hosket was 13 of 18 passing for 188 yards and a touchdown, after sitting out the second half as a precaution because of an ankle injury late in the second

See **ECCC**, page 4B

ECCC

Continued from page 2B

quarter. Ento had three catches for 95 yards and a touchdown. As a team, the Warriors piled up 438 yards of total offense in the win.

"We feel pretty good where we are right now," Karcher said. "We still have a long way to go, and we're not naive to think we've arrived in any way, but we have some more talent. We've got guys that are bigger, and we've got guys that can run. So it's going to be fun to see how fast we can grow."

"It's always good to start off with a win," echoed Ento. "That does something positive for the team, so hopefully we can build off this win and keep going. Once you get that first win, everyone is feeling good, but you have to build on it and prepare for the next game and be ready for the next opponent."

The Warriors are at home again Thursday, Sept. 3, when the Coahoma Community College Tigers visit Bailey Stadium in Decatur. Kickoff is 6:30 p.m.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR

RAT X

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JOURNAL

WEEK OF Aug 30, 2015

Hosket leads East Central to big win

From combined reports

DECATUR — Jesse Hosket's first start as quarterback at East Central Community College was a good one, as the former French Camp Academy standout hit on 13-of-18 passes for 188 yards and a touchdown in just two quarters of play to lead the Warriors to a 34-0 win over Mississippi Delta.

The Warriors jumped out to a 27-0 halftime lead, amassing 438 yards of total offense in the win. ECCC is set to host Coahoma on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Hosket hit Henri Murphy with a 49-yard pass to set up a 20-yard run by Savon Robinson for East Central's second touchdown of the game and connected with Kabion Ento on a 79-yard touchdown pass to make it 21-0.

"We now have some ability on the outside that anybody can catch it and take it the distance," said third-year ECCC head coach Ken Karcher. "We haven't had that in two years. It's going to be exciting to see how these guys progress, but I was pleased with how they played in the first game.

"This win is very important, and it will help give us momentum heading into the second game of the year," Karcher said. "But like I said to our guys, we have to learn how to win, because it hasn't happened around here."

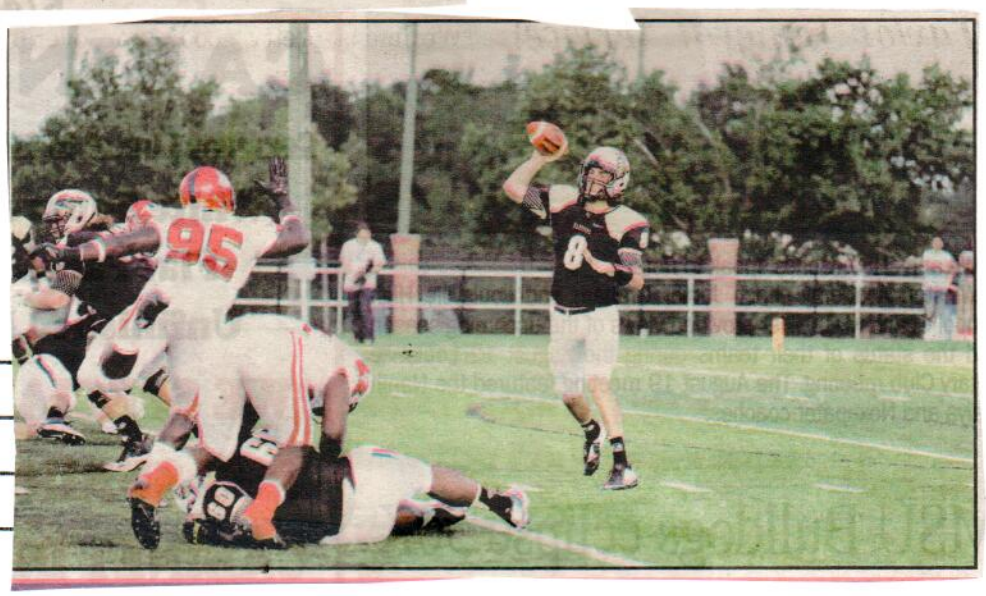
The Warriors got the first half scoring started when Pat Walker returned an interception 14 yards for the touchdown to give East Central a 7-0 lead with 6:59 remaining in the first quarter. Aaron Garrett kicked the point after.

Robinson's aforementioned run and Ento's pass reception made it 21-0, before Robinson picked up his second touchdown of the game on a 62-yard run to make it 27-0 at the half. The last score of the game came on a 12-yard run by Donterrius Poe in the fourth quarter.

A stingy Warrior defense forced eight Trojan punts, an interception, and a fumble in their first 11 possessions of the game. East Central held the Trojans to 222 yards offense and sacked Delta quarterbacks five times.

"I think our defensive coaches have done a fine job," Karcher said. "We've upgraded our talent. We're going to build this program around defense, and I thought our guys played the way we expect to play."

Robinson finished with 119 yards rushing on 10 carries, with two touchdowns, while Poe tallied 43 yards on nine carries and a touchdown.



(Right) ECCC quarterback Jesse Hosket tosses a pass during the Warriors win last Thursday.

PPEAL

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR

WEEK OF Aug. 23, 2015

JUCO FOOTBALL

Warriors run past Trojans

ECCC offense explodes vs. Miss. Delta CC

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

Photo courtesy of ECCC

East Central Community College running back Savon Robinson runs around the edge against Mississippi Delta Community College Thursday night.

DECATUR — East Central Community College's offense was lightning in a bottle Thursday night.

Sophomore receiver Kabion Ento turned what looked like a moderate gain into a dazzling 79-yard touchdown catch and run, and running back Savon Robinson had touchdown runs of 20 and 62 yards as ECCC blasted Mississippi Delta Community College, winning 34-0 to open its 2015 campaign in most impressive fashion.

"We now have some ability on the outside that anybody can catch it and take it the distance," said third-year East Central Community College coach Ken Karcher. "We haven't had that in two years. It's going to be exciting to see how these guys progress, but I was pleased with how they played in the first game."

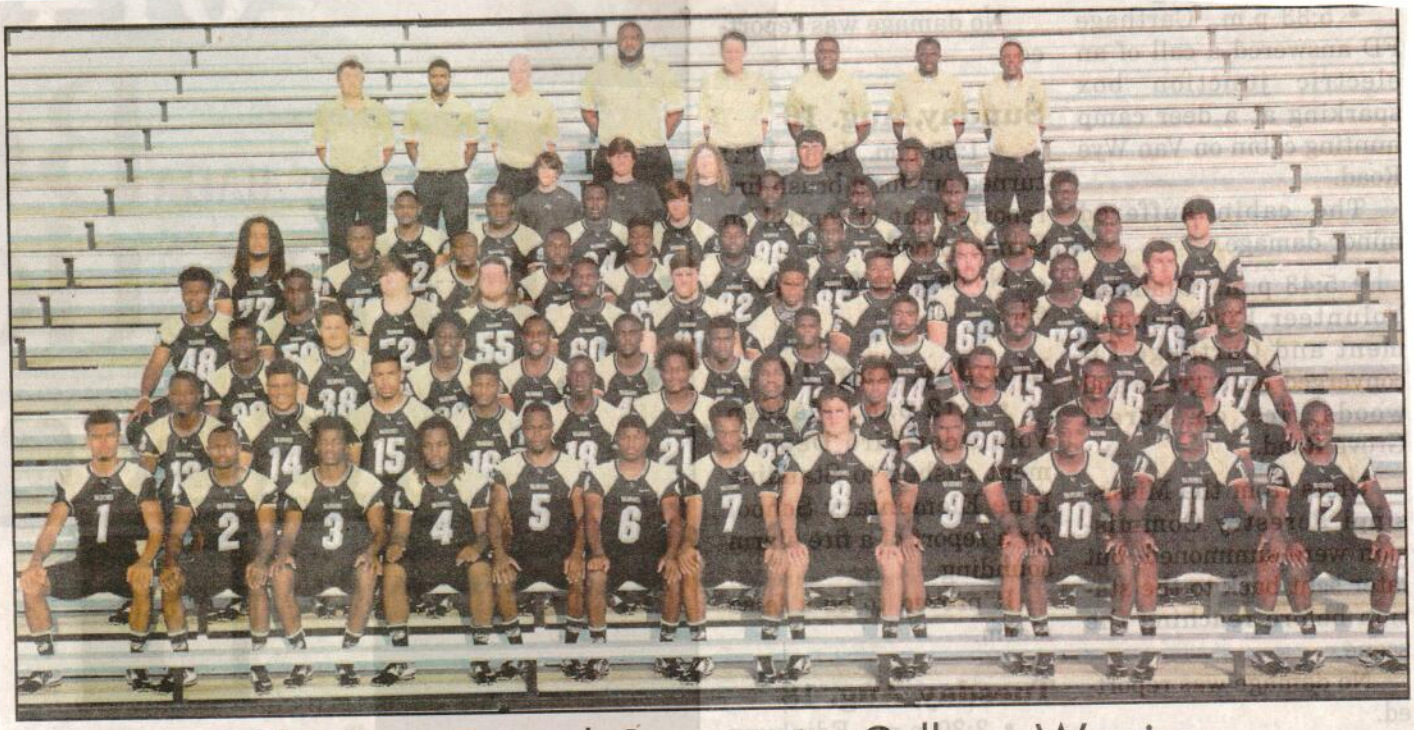
Robinson finished the game with nine carries for 111 yards, while Ento finished with 93 yards on three catches.

"It's always good to start off with a win," Ento said. "That does something positive for the team, so hopefully we can build off this win and keep going. Once you get that first win, everyone is feeling good, but you have to build on it and prepare for the next game and be ready for the next opponent."

East Central CC led at the half 27-0. Donterrius Poe capped the resounding win with a 12-yard touchdown run midway through the fourth quarter. The former

See ECCC on page B2

WEEK OF Aug 16, 2015



2015 East Central Community College Warriors

Warriors scrimmage, meet fans leading up to '15 debut

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT X

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

Pg. 2

WEEK OF Aug 16 2015

Media members, family and East Central Community College fan flooded Decatur Saturday morning for media day and a scrimmage by the 2015 edition of the Warriors.

Then, Monday evening, a "Meet the Gators" event was held as the team's season-opener against Mississippi Delta on Thursday, Aug. 27, approached.

A full preview of the Warriors' can be found in this edition's gridiron preview, along with stories, rosters and schedules for Leake Academy, Leake Central, Leake County, Choctaw Central, Scott Central and Sebastopol.

East Central's complete roster, as pictured above, is as follows, including home towns and positions for each player:

Trey Sloan (1), defensive back, Oak Grove; Henri Murphy (2), wide receiver, Dollarway/Pine Bluff, Ark.; Torran Davis (3), cornerback, Red Bank/Chattanooga, Tenn.; Demetrius Gooden (4), linebacker, Newton County; Jaylon Lofton (5), defensive back, Forest;

Juwon Hayes Keyes (6), strong safety, Taylorsville; Kabion Ento (7), wide receiver, Dollarway/Pine Bluff, Ark.; Jesse Hosket (8), quarterback, French Camp; Allen Fails (9), linebacker, North Forrest; Austin Balthazor (10), strong safety, Seminary; Jordan Thomas (11), tight end, Sumrall; and Trey Willis (12), quarterback, Forest Hill;

Devontae Wilson (13), defensive back, Warren Central; Pat Walker (14), linebacker, North Forrest; Vonnie Howard (15), quarterback, Murrah; Toriano Howard (16), wide receiver, Quitman; Devin McIntosh (18), wide receiver, Amory; Mikell Daniels (21), running back, Forest;

Tredarian Gamble (22), wide receiver, Oxford, Ala.; Noah Nix (23), wide receiver, West Lauderdale; Aubrey Bourn (26), linebacker, Hattiesburg; Isiah Thomas (27), defensive back, Madison Central; and Donterrius Poe (28), running back, Philadelphia;

Savon Robinson (33), running back, Raymond; Zach Claycomb (38), kicker/punter, Hartfield Academy; Keawvis Cummings (39), defensive back, Shannon; Cedrick Snow (40), linebacker, Newton; Tisdale Simms (41), outside linebacker, Pascagoula; Justin Robertson (42), free safety, Noxapater; Dwayne Barnett (43), running back, Harrison Central;

Breyron Jackson (44), defensive end, Germantown; Courtney Stamper (45), defensive lineman, Red Bank/Chattanooga, Tenn.; Xavier Sharkey (46), running back, Newton County; and Eric McPherson (47), linebacker, Jim Hill;

Timmy Owens (48), linebacker, Leake Central; Bradley Horne (50), defensive end, Philadelphia; Brandon Harrison (52), offensive lineman, Newton County Academy; Micah Parten (55), offensive lineman, Northwest Rankin; Eddie Houston (60), offensive lineman, Newton; Brett Warren (61), offensive lineman, Northwest Rankin;

Marcus Blaylock (63), linebacker, Newton; JaRod Braggs (65), offensive lineman, Forest; Hunter Soileau (66), offensive tackle, Forrest County AHS; Bradston Burnside (72), offensive lineman, Hattiesburg; and Lucas Orchard (76), offensive lineman, Vancleave;

Caleb Welch (77), offensive lineman, Northwest Rankin; James McGee (78), offensive lineman, Raymond; Jeremiah Caine (79), offensive lineman, Columbus; Walter Williams (80), linebacker, Newton County; Lee Brandon (81), wide receiver, New Hope; Kalen Meggs (82), tight end, Richton;

Julius Cook (85), long snapper, J.Z. George; Lucas Morgan (86), tight end, Morton; Barry Bolden (89), wide receiver, Madison Central; Derek Mahaffey (90), defensive lineman, Oxford, Ala.; and Chase Freeman (91), defensive lineman, Hancock;

Jerry Magee, (92), defensive lineman, Collins; Charles Bradford (93), defensive lineman, Forest; Jalon Sangster (94), defensive end, Louisville; Aaron Garrett (95), kicker/punter, Meridian; Rosheem Collins (96), defensive lineman, Ware County/Waycross, Ga.;

Devon Jones (97), defensive lineman, Heidelberg; Jadarius Ceasar (98), defensive end, Paul W. Bryant/Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and Zachary Graves (99), defensive tackle, Magee;

Managers Gentry Hodge, Northwest Rankin; Brandon Dunn, Brandon; Blaze Gibbs, Brandon; Phillip Golden, Carthage; Kenshon Henderson, Philadelphia.

Ken Karcher is in this third year as head coach of the Warriors.

Karcher's staff includes coaches Mickey Mays, Tylan Martin, Scott Brock, Dennis Alexander, Ben Cooper, Charlie Jones, and Derek Welch.

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT X

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Aug. 16. 2015

East Central Preps for Season Opener

Posted: Tue 4:11 PM, Aug 18, 2015

By: ECCC Media Relations

The East Central Community College Warriors open the 2015 football campaign Thursday, Aug. 27, when they host the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans at 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus. Admission is $7.

If you can't watch the Warriors play in person, listen on the radio or watch new live stream video this season.

All nine games, home and away, will be broadcast live on the radio at WKOZ 98.7 "The Groove". The radio broadcasts will also be streamed online at the ECCC website at www.eccc.edu and at www.kicks967.com.

New this year will be live video streaming of all five East Central Community College home football games. The high definition video and streaming audio can be found at www.eccc.edu or www.kicks967.com.

Longtime Warrior play-by-play announcer Melvin Wooten and color analyst Gilbert Barham will call the action.

MaxxSouth Sports will broadcast East Central's first three home games on tape delay and available to those who have cable television service through MaxxSouth Broadband.

Back this year is the Mississippi JUCO Football Scoreboard Show, which will air each Thursday night from 10 to 11 p.m. on SuperTalk Mississippi radio stations in the following areas: Corinth (94.3), Delta (96.9), Golden Triangle (100.9), MS Gulf Coast (103.1), Hattiesburg/Jackson (97.3), Laurel (99.3), Meridian (103.3), North MS (93.7), Southwest MS (102.1) and Tupelo (102.9). The show will air for nine consecutive weeks beginning Aug. 27 and ending Oct. 22.

Also again this year, the 30-minute Inside Mississippi JUCO Football show will be televised every Wednesday at 10 p.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. Twelve shows will air beginning Sept. 2 and concluding Dec. 9.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

other X

www.wtok.com

WEEK OF Aug. 16, 2015

ECCC Warrior Football 'Voices'

Returning as the "voices" of East Central Community College football for the 2015 campaign are longtime announcers (from left) Gilbert Barham of Madden, Melvin Wooten of Starkville and Frank Edmondson of Lake. Barham is in his 21st year as game analyst for radio broadcasts, Wooten returns for his 12th year as the play-by-play announcer on radio, and Edmondson begins his 18th year as public address announcer for home football games. All ECCC football games can be heard on 98.3 "The Groove" and by audio stream on the ECCC Web site, www.eccc.edu. In addition, all home games can be watched via livestream at www.eccc.edu. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON X

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Aug 9, 2015

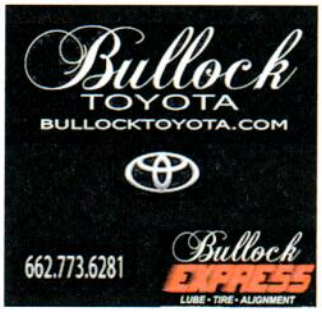
East Central Community College Football Ready for Breakout Season in 2015

After two years of laying the foundation for a successful football program, East Central Community College Head Coach Ken Karcher is optimistic his Warriors will be in a position to win more games in the 2015 season as preseason practices got underway Aug. 5.Karcher, who took over as ECCC's head coach prior to the 2013 season, led the Warriors to a 1-8 record that first fall, while improving to 3-6 last season in the toughest junior college football league in the nation.

He says the foundation that was started in 2013 is starting to take hold as the Warriors enter the new campaign.

"That first year we were not in a position to be competitive with most teams and we weren't sure we could win a game," Karcher said. "Last year we made more strides that I thought we would. We had some games we were in and could have won if we had taken advantage of the opportunities. I felt we ended up record-wise about where we should have when we started, but the disappointment was that we could have probably won three more games."

Karcher, a former NFL quarterback in his 25th year of coaching, said the disappointment of not winning more games in 2014 brings enthusiasm and optimism for the 2015 squad.



"The disappointment of not finishing some games last year has given us great encouragement that we are ahead in our foundation building," he said. "Heading into this year we are very optimistic. Our coaches have done a great job recruiting, and I look for us to be more competitive with more teams. What that will mean on the scoreboard, I don't know, but I think we'll be in a position to win more games this year."

Karcher welcomed 72 players competing for 55 roster and 10 practice squad spots when the team reported for fall practice. After three days of no-contact practices, the Warriors began alternating two-a-day practices with single practice days leading up to an Aug. 15 scrimmage before beginning preparation on the season opener. The Warriors begin the 2015 campaign hosting Mississippi Delta in Bailey Stadium at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27.

The strength of the Warriors again this season will be on the defensive side of the football, which Karcher believes has improved the most since his first season. East Central allowed an average of 22 points a game last season, after giving up more than 40 points per game in 2013

Expectations are high for the secondary, where three starters return, including safety Austin Balthazor of Seminary High School in Collins, and cornerbacks Jaylon Lofton of Forest High School and Trey Sloan out of Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg. Balthazor led the team in tackles with 65, while Lofton picked off two passes last season. Also returning is Devontae Wilson, a product of Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, who logged a considerable amount of playing time in the defensive backfield in 2014.

Anchoring the defensive front will be Jadarius Ceasar, a 6-5, 225-pound defensive end from Paul W. Bryant High School in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Ceasar was second on the team in 2014 with 61 tackles, including four sacks. Freshmen Rosheem Collins, a 6-1, 320-pound defensive tackle out of Ware County High School in Waycross, Ga., and Courtney Stamper, a 6-5, 262-pound defensive end from Red Bank High School in Chattanooga, Tenn., will be counted on to contribute early.

"I think we'll be very good up front and we'll have a strong secondary," said Karcher. "Those are the strengths of our defense, which we expect to be the core of the team."

Offensively, the key will be getting consistent and productive play out of the quarterback position.

"We struggled our first two years with inconsistent play at quarterback," said Karcher, who also serves as East Central's offensive coordinator. "That position is going to have to be very consistent and very productive for us. I'm encouraged by what I'm seeing, but that is critical for our football team."

While Karcher is not ready to name a starter, Jesse Hosket, a product of French Camp High School and transfer from Itawamba Community College, was the leader going into fall practice. The 6-4, 215-pound signal caller is being challenged for the starting slot by Trey Willis of Forest Hill High School in Jackson, who played in eight games for the Warriors last season, and Vonnie Howard, who transferred from Pearl River Community College after playing high school football at Murrah High School in Jackson.

"Jesse Hosket is leading this group at the moment, but I'm still not ready to name a starter," said Karcher. "He has taken charge and said, 'I want to be the leader of this offense.' Trey continues to improve as well."

Sophomore running back SaVon Robinson of Raymond High School in Crystal Springs will try to fill the gap left by the departing Lamarcus Franks, who led the Warriors in rushing last fall.

"I feel good about our running backs," said Karcher. "Savon Robinson is a young man who has ability, and we signed three other players who we think can really play, so we are excited to see what they can do."

Kabion Ento returns to lead the Warrior receiving corp. The product of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., caught 21 passes last year for 278 yards and two touchdowns. Several newcomers also are expected to contribute.

"Wide receiver will probably be our most skilled area this fall," noted Karcher.

With three starters returning on the offensive line and two other returning linemen with extensive playing time, East Central is looking to be much improved on the offensive side of the ball entering the 2015 season.

"Offensively, we have an experienced group and our skill level has increased," Karcher explained. "If we can get the production we want and need at quarterback, I think we can be very good on offense."

Karcher also expects marked improvement in the kicking game this year. Sophomore Aaron Garrett from Meridian High School and freshman Zach Claycomb from Hartfield Academy in Flowood are competing for the kicking and punting duties.

"Both young men have real strong legs and I'm very pleased with both of them," said Karcher. "I feel like we have two kickers who are going to strengthen us in two areas where we struggled last year."

Scott County Times X
Winston County Journal X

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

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Winston Web News

pg. 2

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of Aug. 9, 2015

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications X

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WTOK

The kick return game also should be solid and improved over a year ago, Karcher noted.

"We are growing into what we want to be as a football program," Karcher said. "I'm excited and optimistic that we will improve. How much? We just won't know until we get into pads and into the games. We have enough talent to compete with everyone on our schedule.

"Our coaches have done a very good and thorough job of evaluating talent. Some young men who may have been overlooked by others, our coaches are finding. Our goal each year is to find a player that's better than what we currently have. Time will tell, but I feel like that's happening."

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There is one addition to Karcher's coaching staff this season. Taylorsville native Derek Welch is serving as assistant defensive backs coach after joining the staff in February. He previously served in the same position at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. Welch played his college football at Jones County Junior College and the University of Tennessee-Martin.

Returning coaches include Scott Brock, defensive coordinator and linebackers coach; Mickey Mays, defensive line coach and special teams coordinator; Charles Jones, defensive backs coach and head strength coach; Dennis Alexander, offensive line coach; Ben Cooper, tight ends and running backs coach; and Tylan Martin, wide receivers coach.

East Central's schedule features five home games on the synthetic turf of Bailey Stadium in Decatur, including the opening game Aug. 27. The Warriors also play at home Thursday, Sept. 3, against Coahoma at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24, vs. Copiah-Lincoln at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 1, vs. Hinds at6:30 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 17, against Southwest at 2:30 p.m. in the annual Homecoming game.

The Warriors will travel to Gulf Coast on Sept. 10, Holmes on Sept. 17, Jones on Oct. 10 and Pearl River on Oct. 22.

WEEK OF Aug 9, 2015

Tuning up

ECCC Head Football Coach Ken Karcher, who also serves as offensive coordinator, works with quarterbacks (from left) Trey Willis, Jesse Hosket, and Vonnie Howard during preseason practice. ECCC kicks off the season Thursday, Aug. 27 in Decatur.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Aug 9, 2015

ECCC Warriors set for scrimmage

The 2015 edition of the East Central Community College Warrior football team will host its annual Photo and Media Day Saturday, Aug. 15, at Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

During the annual event, area media have an opportunity to interview coaches and players and take photographs in preparation for the 2015 season, as well as watch the Warriors scrimmage.

This year's event will begin at 7:30 a.m. when the players and coaches will gather at the stadium for team and individual photos, photos by county, and photos of coaches and their families.

After the photograph session, the Warriors will scrimmage from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Parents and fans of the Warrior football program also may attend.

Third-year Head Coach Ken Karcher said the annual event will begin earlier in the day this year to accommodate the players and their families.

East Central opens the 2015 season on Thursday, Aug. 27, hosting Mississippi Delta Community College at 6:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium. The Warriors, who will play five home games this season, look continue to improve under Karcher after going 3-6 in 2014.

Defensive coordinator Scott Brock runs players through drills in preparation for the 2015 football season at East Central Community College.

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WEEK OF 12/27/15

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YEAR IN REVIEW

ECCC Football headlines 2015 sports

By Robbie Robertson
sports@newtoncountyappeal.com

There was a little bit of everything going on in 2015 in Newton County.

There were tears and laughter but most of all there was winning. The past year saw the resurrection of East Central football, a run of excellence for Newton County Academy, a pair of state championship for Newton County softball but also saw some things we don't usually see like Newton girls being eliminated from the state tournament after having to play a game with the wrong ball. There was also lots of action in the minor sports as Union's Andy Ogletree won another state championship and made a name for himself at the U.S. Junior Amateur tournament while Newton County showed they have some mad tennis skills with a pair of mixed doubles state championships at Newton County and Newton County Academy.

Here's a list of this past year's top sports stories as picked by the Newton County Appeal staff:

1. The resurrection of East Central football

When Ken Karcher came to East Central, he had a plan to take the Warriors to a winning football program. It only took three years and Karcher and the Warriors had a season for the ages. The Warriors finished the year with an 8-3 record that included a 35-21 victory over Kilgore College in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl. The Warriors finished the season ranked No. 10 in the nation. Of their losses, the Warriors lost to eventual national champion Northwest Mississippi Community College in the semifinals of the state junior college playoffs.

2. A year of champions at NCA

It was a banner calendar year for Newton County Academy athletics. After winning the

See Year, 10A

East Central's defense forced three first quarter turnovers that resulted in 21 points and an early Warrior lead in the bowl game.

EC Photo

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT
SCOTT COUNTY TIMES
WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL
CLARION-LEDGER

JUCO GOLF

ECCC golfers finish fifth in final event of fall

m school reports

ed by sophomore Zack Hammons, East Central Community College team finished in fifth place among eams in the fourth, and final, Mississi Association of Community and ior Colleges Conference Tournat of the fall season Oct. 26-27 at nd Bear Golf Club in Saucier.

he tournament was hosted by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Hammons, a product of Raleigh High ool, finished in fifth place after shooting a two-under par 142 (73, 69) over the 36 holes of the tournament. As a team, ECCC shot a 36-over par 612. The Warriors improved 16 strokes from the first to the second round.

Gulf Coast won the tournament over Spring Hill College on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff after both teams finished 36 holes with a score of 577.

ECCC entered the tournament ranked No. 5 in the nation in the National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Golf Division II poll and No. 7 in the Golfstat Relative Rankings.

The Warriors finished the fall portion of the 2015-16 MACJC season with two third-place finishes, one fourth and a fifth.

Other ECCC golfers participating and their scores included sophomore Andrew Joiner out of Spanish Fort High School in Daphne, Ala., 155 (81,74), which tied for 22nd place; sophomore Tristan Hernandez of Leake Academy, 156 (78, 78), which tied for 25th; freshman Seth McCormick out of Newton County Academy, 165 (82, 83), which tied for 46th; freshman Kade Mathner out of Enterprise High School (Ala.), 166 (86, 80), which tied for 49th; sophomore Nathan Nance of Newton County High School, 172 (95, 77), which tied for 60th; and sophomore Blake Miller out of Ocean Springs High School, 179 (95, 84), which placed him at 71st.

The Warrior golf team will not be in action again until March 7-8 at MACJC Conference Event No. 5 at Back Acres Country Club in Senatobia. The event is hosted by Northwest Mississippi Community College.

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WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

ECCC golfers ranked Noi. 5 in NJCAA Division II

From school reports

The East Central Community College men's golf team is the No. 5 ranked program in the nation in the most recent National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Golf Division II poll.

The Warriors also are ranked No. 7 in the nation among all NJCAA Division II programs in the most recent Golfstat Relative Rankings compiled by golfstat.com.

The Warrior golfers, coached by Chris Clark, have participated in three Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges tournaments this fall, finishing third in two tournaments and fourth in the other.

MACJC members Meridian Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College are ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in the NCJAA Men's Golf Division II poll and No. 1 and No. 3, respectively, in the Golfstat Relative Rankings.

The Warriors are back action Oct. 26-27 at a MACJC Conference Event Grand Bear Golf Club i Saucier and hosted b Mississippi Gulf Coas Community College.

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WEEK OF Oct 11, 2015

MCC, ECCC nationally ranked

From combined school reports

The Meridian Community College golf team has enjoyed success during its fall season, and the squad can add one more honor to its resume for 2015.

The Eagles learned on Thursday afternoon they have been voted as the No. 1 team in the nation according to the latest golf poll released by Golfstat.com among all Division II junior colleges.

MCC was followed by South Mountain Community College in the second position among all Division II teams in the nation. Mississippi Gulf Coast was ranked third in the poll to join MCC as the only two schools in the State of Mississippi to be ranked in the top five.

Meridian also had a pair of players receive individual honors among all players in junior college golf, according to the website. Former Lamar School star Lance Strickland was ranked as the No. 2 player in the nation among all divisions of junior college and the top ranked player among all Division II schools. Strickland has had a superb start to his freshman campaign at Meridian Community College by receiving medalist honors in two events this fall and earning a spot on the All-Tournament Team in a separate event.

MORE INFORMATION

Former Lamar School star Lance Strickland was ranked the No. 2 player in the country among all divisions of community and junior colleges and first among all Division II players.

Strickland captured his first tournament championship at the MACJC Event No. 2, which was hosted by Northeast Mississippi Community College, and took home top honors at the Pinnacle Trust Invitational, which was hosted by Belhaven University. Strickland most recently finished in second place after another strong showing at the MACJC Event No. 3, which was hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Sophomore Grant Renegar also received individual honors from Golfstat.com by being ranked 29th among all junior college players and eighth overall among players in the Division II ranks. Renegar has had a strong start to his 2015 season for the Eagles by placing on the All-Tournament Team twice in two separate events for MCC.

MCC has captured three straight tournament victories during its 2015 fall season and will return to action on Oct. 25-27 at the Arkansas State University Beach Bash at the Peninsula Golf Course in Gulf Shores, Ala. The tournament at the end of the month for MCC will also mark its final event of the 2015 fall season. MCC is under the direction of head coach Ronnie Key.

ECCC golf ranked Nos. 5, 7

The East Central Community College men's golf team is the No. 5 ranked program in the nation in the most recent National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Golf Division II poll.

The Warriors also are ranked No. 7 in the nation among all NJCAA Division II programs in the most recent Golfstat Relative Rankings compiled by golfstat.com.

The Warrior golfers, coached by Chris Clark, have participated in three Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges tournaments this fall, finishing third in two tournaments and fourth in the other.

MACJC members Meridian Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College are ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in the NCJAA Men's Golf Division II poll and No. 1 and No. 3, respectively, in the Golfstat Relative Rankings.

The Warriors are back in action Oct. 26-27 at an MACJC Conference Event at Grand Bear Golf Club in Saucier and hosted by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

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WEEK OF October 4, 2015

ECCC golfers take fourth in Wesson tourney

The East Central Community College golf team took fourth place among eight teams in the third Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges conference tournament of the fall season held Oct. 3-4 at Wolf Hollow Golf Club in Wesson and hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

The Warriors finished third out of nine teams in both of the first two tournaments of the fall portion of the 2015-16 MACJC golf schedule.

Sophomore Andrew Joiner out of Spanish Fort High School in Daphne, Ala., led the Warriors with a six-over par 150 to tie for 13th overall. Other East Central golfers included sophomore Zach Hammons of Raleigh High School, who shot a seven-over par 151 to tie for 15th; sophomore Tristan Hernandez of Leake Academy, who finished 10-over par 154 and tied for 19th; freshman Kade Mathner of Enterprise High School (Ala.), who shot 21-over par 165 and in 37th place; and sophomore Nathan Nance out of Newton County High School, who finished tied for 41st with a 24-over par 168.

See **ECCC**, page 5B

ECCC

Continued from page 4B

As a team, the Warriors shot a 38-over par 614. Meridian Community College won the tournament with a team score of two-under 574.

The Warrior golf team will compete in its fourth, and final, match of the fall season Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 26-27, at Bear Creek Golf Club in Saucier.

The tournament will be hosted by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

ECCC golfers place third in Northeast tournament

Led again by sophomore Zack Hammons, the East Central Community College golf team took third place in the second Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges tournament of the fall season held at Shiloh Ridge Golf Club in Corinth Sept. 19-20 and hosted by Northeast Mississippi Community College.

The ECCC golfers also finished in third place the previous weekend at the MACJC event hosted by Hinds Community College.

Hammons, a product of Raleigh High School, finished in third place among 55 other golfers after shooting a six-under par 138 during the 36-hole tournament. He had rounds of 67 and 71 over the par 72 course.

Hammons finished in sixth place at the first tournament event of the season.

Other East Central golfers playing in the Northeast Mississippi Community College event included sophomore Tristan Hernandez of Leake Academy, who finished even par 144 and tied for ninth; sophomore Andrew Joiner of Spanish Fort High School in Daphne, who was three-over par 147 and finished 16th; freshman Kade Mathner out of Enterprise High School (Ala.), who shot six-over par 150 and finished tied for 19th; and sophomore Nathan Nance out of Newton County High School, who shot an 11-over 155 and tied for 29th.

As a team, the Warriors shot a two-over par 578. Meridian Community College won the tournament with a team score of 16-under 560.

The Warrior golf team returns to action Oct. 3-4, in the third MACJC Conference event of the fall at Wolf Hollow Golf Course in Wesson and hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

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WEEK OF August 2, 2015

EMMONS RECEIVES DOBBS GOLF AWARD

Anthony Emmons, a graduate of Lake High School, is the recipient of the Tony Dobbs Memorial Golf Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

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WEEK OF July 19, 2015

Mathner commits to play golf collegiately

By Casey Strickland sports@southeastsun.com | Posted: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 3:37 pm

Kade Mathner qualified for the state golf tournament as a senior at Enterprise High School last season, and will now have the chance to continue his playing career as well as his education.

Mathner orally committed to play golf at East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss., and plans to sign an athletic scholarship.

The 2015 EHS graduate visited the college and was impressed by the reception from the administrative and coaching staffs.

"I got a lot of support when I visited up there from my coach," Mathner said. "My dad is good friends with the president so I got to talk with the president of the college. He's just a really great guy. They're all about doing your best. They are pretty committed there."

East Central Community College, which is coached by Chris Clark, competes in the National Junior College Athletic Association and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

EHS golf

The Warriors finished fifth in the MACJC State Championship in April according to the school's athletic website.

While he put in effort for golf, Mathner also learned the importance of academics and the scholarship.

"They say academics is what really counts," he said. "I've got to take advantage of that and do well academically. It's not just about golf."

On the course, however, the former Wildcat learned an important lesson during his EHS career from Enterprise golf coach Joe Thornton.

"Coach Thornton…instilled perseverance with us," Mathner said. "As a football coach…he has that mentality of perseverance that can carry over to golf. Not everything in golf is good. You've just got to keep on pushing through."

After he took a break from golf to concentrate on academics, Mathner noticed mental improvements in his game.

"Probably this year was the biggest stride mentally," he said. "There was one point in the year where I had to take a break…take a break from golf. I came back, (and) I wasn't really expecting much. I wasn't expecting to play (well)."

Mathner exceeded his expectations when he returned to the course. He went on to earn a spot in the state tournament as an individual.

"That was all because, mentally, I just let everything go," Mathner said. "I didn't get too upset whenever something bad went wrong. I didn't really put too much pressure on myself."

The accomplishment of making the cut at the state tournament showed Mathner something.

"It shows I belong with some of the best players in the state," he said. "It was really important to qualify. It showed I was good enough. It just gave me extra confidence."

Since his high school career has ended, Mathner is grateful for a chance to play collegiate golf.

"It's awesome," he said. "I've worked really hard for it. This is my passion, and it's really good for me. I'm really excited."

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www.southeastsun.com

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NEWTON COUNTY APP

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR

EC golf finishes second in final MACJC event of fal

By ECCC sports information

Led by sophomore Zack Hammons, the East Central Community College golf team finished in second place in the fourth, and final, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Conference Tournament of the fall season held Oct. 26-27 at Grand Bear Golf Club in Saucier. The tournament was hosted by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

The event was two tournaments in one, with the MACJC competition and an invitational competition that also included teams from outside the MACJC.

Hammons, a product of Raleigh High School, finished in third place in the MACJC event, after shooting a two-under par 142 (73, 69) over the 36 holes of the tournament. He finished in fifth in the invitational. He was named to the All-Tournament Team in both events.

East Central finished in fifth place in the invitational. As a team, ECCC shot a 36-over par 612. The Warriors improved 16 strokes from the first to the second round.

Gulf Coast won both tournaments.

East Central entered the tournament ranked No. 5 in the nation in the National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Golf Division II poll and No. 7 in the Golfstat Relative Rankings compiled by golfstat.com.

The Warriors finished the fall portion of the 2015-16 MACJC season with one second place, two third place, and one fourth finish.

Other East Central golfers participating and their scores included sophomore Andrew Joiner out of Spanish Fort High School in Daphne, Ala., 155 (81,74) tied for 22nd place; sophomore Tristan Hernandez of Leake Academy, 156 (78, 78), tied for 25th; freshman Seth McCormick out of Newton County Academy, 165 (82, 83), tied for 46th; freshman Kade Mathner out of Enterprise High School (Ala.), 166 (86, 80), tied for 49th; sophomore Nathan Nance of Newton County High School, (95, 77), tied for 60th; sophomore Blake Miller of Ocean Springs H School, 179 (95, 84), 71st.

The Warrior golf team not be in action again in March 7-8, 2016, at MAC Conference Event No. 5 Back Acres Country Club Senatobia. The event hosted by Northwest Mississippi Community College.

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WEEK OF January 4, 2014

ECCC PHOTO

These outstanding men's soccer players received honors at the annual Fall Sports Awards Banquet held at East Central Community College in Decatur. Award winners and their respective high schools include (seated from left) midfielder Jordan Alonso of Newton County, Warrior Award; keeper Matt Sykes of Heritage Academy, MACJC All-Star and honorable mention MACJC All-State; and midfielder Jackson Oliver of Clinton, hustle award; and (standing from left) defender Tyler Cook of Daphne (Ala.), defense award, team most valuable player, MACJC All-State and MACJC All-Star; midfielder Eliud Alvarez of Forest, Golden Boot Award, team captain award and MACJC All-Star; defender Dalton Smith of Florence, academic and team captain awards, and MACJC All-Star; and defender Kellen Clark of Newton County, honorable mention MACJC All-State. Not pictured is forward/keeper Jacob Johnson of Destrehan (La.), honorable mention MACJC All-State. ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart and men's head soccer coach Kenneth Thompson presented awards.

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WEEK OF June 4, 2015

EC teams named NJCAA academic teams of year

By ECCC sports information

East Central Community College's women's soccer and softball teams have been named best in the nation in their respective sports for academic excellence by the National Junior College Athletic Association for 2014-15.

The East Central women's soccer program was named the NJCAA Women's Soccer Academic Team of the Year and the women's softball team was named the NJCAA Women's Softball Academic Team of the Year.

East Central's women's soccer team, led by Head Coach Gray Massey, complied an overall 3.53 grade-point average to lead all community college soccer programs in the nation. It was the fourth such honor since the program began in 2005. The squad also had a successful season on the field in fall 2014, with their best record ever at 12-4-2 and first appearance in post-season play.

ECCC's women's softball team, under the direction of Head Coach Kristin Chaney, compiled an overall 3.63 GPA to lead all community college softball programs in the nation. Chaney's squad finished the season 48-14 during spring 2015 and second in the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship tournament.

Other ECCC teams recognized by the NJCAA for having an overall team GPA of 3.0 or above included women's tennis, 3.45 GPA and 13th best in the nation; men's baseball, 3.14 GPA and No. 33 in rankings; and men's soccer, 3.04 GPA and No. 6 in the nation.

"We place a major emphasis on student success at East Central Community College in fulfillment of our 2020 Vision strategic plan," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "Our No. 1 priority is to make sure we provide our students with every opportunity to succeed academically. I'm extremely proud of these student-athletes and their coaches for being winners both in the classroom and on the playing fields."

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WEEK OF April 5, 2015

Southeast soccer players sign with ECCC

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

The Southeast Lauderdale High School soccer team had a magical 2014-15 campaign.

The Tigers went 21-1 and beat Sacred Heart 4-2 on penalty kicks to claim the MHSAA Class 1A/2A/3A state championship.

On Wednesday, Southeast added to this season's achievements after seniors Chase Hughes and Gage Leifried signed college scholarship papers with East Central Community College.

"They bought into the programs and did the necessary things to get better as soccer players," Southeast Lauderdale coach Mike Thomas said. "They enjoy playing, and they are showing great initiative – and I think that is their biggest attribute. Not only are they two good soccer players, they're also outstanding people. They are the epitome of the student-athlete."

Hughes led the Tigers as a striker, scoring 31 goals, while Leifried scored two from his right back position.

The pair were named first team All-District and Hughes garnered honorable mention All-State recognition.

"His hustle and desire puts pressure on opposing teams," Thomas said of Hughes. "He practices on his own, in the offseason, touching the ball and running laps around the field. And Gage has tremendous leadership, he's self-starter, and that's the key to success. Diligence, persistence, hard work and being a self-starter. Not only is that applicable to soccer, but that also applies to life."

Hughes chose East Central over Hinds Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, citing location and a familiar likeness in making his decision.

Special to The Star

Southeast Lauderdale High School's Chase Hughes, left, and Gage Leifried sign college scholarship papers with East Central Community College Wednesday. The two seniors led the Tigers to a 21-1 mark in 2014-15 and a MHSAA Class 1A/2A/3A state championship.

"It was my plan to go, and it ended up being (Leifried's) plan too," Hughes said. "I don't know where they'll play me yet. I may be moved to a midfield role, but I like playing striker."

Meanwhile, Leifried chose ECCC due to the school's strong reputation in preliminary engineering.

Additionally, the senior defender said playing with a teammate was an added benefit.

"It's a lot easier to get up at 5:30 a.m. to go work out and train with a close friend," Leifried said. "They're tired and sweating with you, and it just makes things a lot easier."

Not only was Wednesday special for Hughes and Leifried, but also for Thomas, as the grizzled coach beamed with pride while two more Tigers were added to the long list of Southeast Lauderdale standouts who signed college scholarships.

"You try to teach them in the classroom, and you try to show them a little soccer, and they have to take it from there," Thomas said. "You want to inspire them to go further, to excel, and these guys have done that."

For Hughes and Lefried, the pair remains hopeful the winning tradition they've helped established at Southeast will trickle down to the players coming through the system for years to come.

"I hope that I've inspired younger guys not to be as good as me, but better than me," Leifried said. "I hope someone looks up to me and says I want to be as good as him or better, or I want to make this soccer team better than what it was the year before."

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WEEK OF April 5, 2015

NCHS soccer standouts sign scholarships

By Austin Bishop
sports@newtoncountyappeal.com

East Central Community College didn't have to go far to find new members of their men's and women's soccer teams as the school signed four Newton County High School standouts to scholarships last Wednesday.

"This is just a great group of kids," NCHS boys and girls soccer coach Sam Wilson said of the signees — Samm Thompson, Parker McWhirter, Will Stewart, and Maggie Luke. "You know you have done the job right when something like this happens. We want to win all of the games, but our job as coaches is to get them to the next level."

Thompson, McWhirter and Stewart signed with the men's team, while Luke will be a Lady Warrior.

Signing soccer scholarships with East Central Community College are, from left, Maggie Luke, Samm Thompson, Will Stewart and Parker McWhirter.

Matt Williamson/Newton County Appeal

The signing ceremony was certainly special to Luke, who missed all but one game of her senior season due to a season-ending knee injury.

"It was tough," Luke said. "I missed out on something i really enjoyed. I am excited about getting the opportunity to play again."

She played center defender and midfield in high school, but said she was open to all positions in college. "Everybody in my family has been to East Central, so it's something I'm excited about."

The last three years have been a whirlwind for Stewart, who did not begin playing high school soccer until he moved to Newton County from Stone County for his sophomore year.

"When I got here a lot of people encouraged me to come out and I said, 'I am not a soccer dude, I'm not that good,' " he said. Stewart obviously was a quick learner, as he will now get the opportunity to play on the college level.

McWhirter said he was excited about finally getting a chance to play the game he loves on a higher level and knows he will have to keep improving.

"I think the biggest change will be to non-stop soccer," he said. "You play year around, it's not just one season, it's soccer all the time.

"Any time you play on a higher level it gets more physical, but I'm ready," he said.

He played right outside back for the Cougars, and really enjoys putting a perfectly placed ball in the air directed at a teammate's head or feet.

Most weren't surprised when Samm Thompson signed with ECCC to play for his dad Kenneth Thompson, who is the Warriors' head coach.

"It was kind of expected, but I had other offers," the younger Thompson said. "I was a little bit worried about it, but both of my brothers played or him and they liked it."

Thompson said he has a pretty good feel of the ECCC team because he has watched them play so much. "I go to most of the games," he said. "I understand what they are trying to do."

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WEEK OF March 29, 2015

pg. 2

Four Newton County soccer players sign with ECCC

By Reed DeSalvo
rdesalvo@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — Four Newton County High School soccer standouts will continue their careers just 2 miles down the road after each signed scholarship papers with East Central Community College Wednesday.

Parker McWhirter, Will Stewart and Samm Thompson signed on the Warriors men's squad, while Maggie Luke signed with the women's team.

"For (coaches), it's a nice thing; that's our job to get them from (high school) to (college)," Newton County boys and girls soccer coach Sam Wilson said. "I know they're excited about the opportunity and are excited about being a part of the East Central program."

More Information

Parker McWhirter, Will Stewart and Samm Thompson and Maggie Luke all signed with ECCC Wednesday.

McWhirter, Stewart and Thompson helped lead the boys team to a 9-7-1 mark and a Region 5-4A title. The Cougars fell to eventual state champion St. Stanislaus 2-0 in the opening round of the MHSAA Class 4A playoffs.

"I think this says a lot about what they've done the last three to four years and not necessarily what they accomplished just this season," Wilson said. "They've helped lead a program that had limited success in the past and we've made ourselves a year-in, year-out playoff team."

Meanwhile, Luke served as a central midfielder for the Lady Cougars a year after playing goalie, and is a four-year letterman, having helped Newton County reach the playoffs for the third time in her four seasons at the high school ranks.

"Her skills are great, and her attitude is great, but her work ethic is what impresses me the most," Wilson said of Luke. "She'll do whatever it takes for her team to win."

Luke said a familiarity with East Central played a pivotal role in her decision to stay close to home.

"It's always been a dream," Luke said.

See SIGNINGS on page B2

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Mar. 29, 2015

Special to The Star

Four Newton County High School soccer players are pictured with their families and coaches signing with East Central Community College Wednesday morning. They are, from left, at the table, Maggie Luke, Samm Thompson, Will Stewart and Parker McWhirter.

SIGNINGS from page B1

"Everybody in my family has gone there, and it's kind of something that I always have been looking forward to. They (parents) wanted me to go to East Central, and they were happy when I decided to go there.

"It's great for me that East Central is just right there, and I could always go back home when I want to, and just be close to home."

Additionally, Stewart and Thompson each share a special family relationship with ECCC, with Stewart's father (Billy Stewart) serving as the school's president, and Thompson's father (Kenneth Thompson) serving as the men's soccer coach.

But despite the family connections, each standout had a major decision looming.

"They were relieved when I decided on East Central," Will Stewart said of his parents. "I used to live near (Mississippi) Gulf Coast Community College, and they were looking at me pretty hard down there. And they were pretty relieved I decided on EC over Gulf Coast."

Stewart scored 15 goals this year and was named the district's most valuable player.

MORE INFORMATION

Will Stewart scored 15 goals for his team this past season and was named the district's most valuable player.

Meanwhile, Samm Thompson leaned on his brothers, Will and Russ Thompson, for advice, as the two previously each played under their father.

"I was kind of worried about it at first," Will Thompson said of playing under his father. "But my brothers did it, and they said it was fun and wasn't too bad, so I figured I would too."

McWhiter will head to to East Central, where he will play either right midfield or right back, providing ECCC head coach Kenneth Thompson with plenty of versatility.

"As a right back, you stay mainly on defense, but you can also get outside, make deep runs and overlap, and send crosses into the box," McWhirter said. "At right mid, you do virtually the same thing. But if you have three-back line, you need to get back more (on defense), and with four-back you can stay up and play more offense. I prefer to play right back (in a four-back line) so I can still get forward and play offense."

And while the foursome venture into the next stage of their soccer careers, lasting memories of their time at Newton County will always be cherished.

"I'm going to remember all my great teammates," said McWhirter, who scored 10 goals this year and was named the district's most outstanding defensive player. "We had the best student-section I've ever seen at a soccer game (St. Stanislaus). It was awesome that all of the students came out to support in a game that big. It was a great year, and I'm just glad we were able to come out as division champs."

And while the foursome venture into the next stage of their soccer careers, lasting memories of their time at Newton County will always be cherished.

"I'm going to remember all my great teammates," McWhirter said. "We had the best student-section I've ever seen at a soccer game (St. Stanislaus). It was awesome that all of the students came out to support in a game that big. It was a great year, and I'm just glad we were able to come out as division champs."And while the foursome venture into the next stage of their soccer careers, lasting memories of their time at Newton County will always be cherished.

WEEK OF Feb 8, 2015

West Lauderdale standouts sign with colleges

Special to The Star

Members of the West Lauderdale High School girls soccer team signed with area junior colleges Wednesay afternoon. They are, from left, front row, Kaitlyn Knuth, who signed with East Central Community College, and her five teammates, who signed with Meridian Community College: Alisa Bullock, Abbie Pope, Jordyn Hull, Taylor Gray and Lacy Billings. Also pictured are, standing, assistant coach Sonya Rowell and head coach Alex George.

By Drew Kerekes
dkerekes@themeridianstar.com

Seven seniors, seven scholarships.

The 12th-grade members of the West Lauderdale High School girls soccer team will all be going to college on a scholarship of some kind, with six of them signing Wednesday afternoon at the school to continue their soccer careers.

Alisa Bullock, Abbie Pope, Jordyn Hull, Taylor Gray and Lacy Billings all signed letters of intent with Meridian Community College at the school's library, while Kaitlyn Knuth inked with East Central Community College. Erin Johnson, the other senior on the Lady Knights' squad, will be attending Ole Miss in the fall on an academic scholarship.

"I think it says a lot about the athletic programs here at West Lauderdale, and our soccer program," girls head coach Alex George said. "I'm so proud for them to go onto the next level. I hate to lose them — they're irreplaceable — but we're here to celebrate the moment and opportunity for them to go on and continue

See WEST on page B3

WEST from page B1

playing."

Hull, a forward, said she is looking forward to continuing her career at MCC with four of her other teammates.

"We've been together for so long, and it means so much," said Hull, who will also be playing tennis at MCC. "We can still continue to play together, so it's a big deal for us."

In Knuth's case, she's the lone player to sign with ECCC, but she said she's happy everyone got the chance to continue playing.

"I'm feeling bittersweet, because I've played with these girls since I was little," Knuth said. "It's something Ill miss, but everyone gets led down different paths. I think it's a decision for the better, and everyone will benefit from the decision that was made."

Hull admitted it would be strange seeing Knuth on the opposing sideline when the two teams play each other in the future.

"It's kind of a big rivalry, so it's going to be weird playing against her, because we're always together," Hull said. "'Good luck,' is all I can say."

No matter where the different paths lead, George said he's confident the girls have built bonds that can never be broken.

"They're a really tight-knit group," George said. "I've had them since they were very little. They just have good camaraderie and leadership skills, and they're so easy to coach and be around. They're a lot of fun, and I'm just glad to be a part of their lives."

Hull agreed with George, saying the group of girls would remain close.

"We've always been a family," she said. "Although some of us are splitting ways, we're always going to be together, because we're like sisters."

Said Knuth, "This is a special group. We were kind of looked upon as the group that would go to state this year, and we're all really close. We trained together and became more than teammates — we're all like sisters."

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WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

www.winstoncountyjournal.com

Tryouts set for ECCC Men's Soccer Team

From press reports

Tryouts for the 2015 East Central Community College men's soccer team will be held Thursday, Feb. 19 on the Decatur campus, announced head coach Kenneth Thompson.

Activities are scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. Registration will be held at the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Players will have to sign a waiver of liability to participate and will need to provide their own equipment including cleats and shin guards.

All prospective players are encouraged to complete a player questionnaire ahead of time by visiting the Warrior Soccer web page at www.eccc.edu.

For more information, contact Coach Kenneth Thompson at ECCC, 601-635-6370 (office) or 601-938-3271 (cell). His e-mail address is kthompson@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Jan. 25, 2015

Collins signs with East Central

Neshoba Central senior soccer standout Mary Kate Collins signed to continue her career at East Central Community College. From left are Coach Janzten Oliver; Collins; mother, Leslie Collins; father, Glenn Collins; principal, John Bowen; Coach Nathan Sistrunk; and brothers Hugh and Jon David Collins.

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WEEK OF August 2, 2015

EC women's soccer, softball honored

East Central Community College's women's soccer and softball teams have been named best in the nation in their respective sports for academic excellence by the National Junior College Athletic Association for 2014-15.

The East Central women's soccer program was named the NJCAA Women's Soccer Academic Team of the Year and the women's softball team was named the NJCAA Women's Softball Academic Team of the Year.

East Central's women's soccer team, led by Head Coach Gray Massey, complied an overall 3.53 grade-point average to lead all community college soccer programs in the nation. It was the fourth such honor since the program began in 2005. The squad also had a successful season on the field in fall 2014, with their best record ever at 12-4-2 and first appearance in post-season play.

ECCC's women's softball team, under the direction of Head Coach Kristin Chaney, compiled an overall 3.63 GPA to lead all community college softball programs in the nation. Chaney's squad finished the season 48-14 during spring 2015 and second in the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship tournament.

Other ECCC teams recognized by the NJCAA for having an overall team GPA of 3.0 or above included women's tennis, 3.45 GPA and 13th best in the nation; men's baseball, 3.14 GPA and No. 33 in rankings; and men's soccer, 3.04 GPA and No. 6 in the nation.

"We place a major emphasis on student success at East Central Community College in fulfillment of our 2020 Vision strategic plan," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "Our No. 1 priority is to make sure we provide our students with every opportunity to succeed academically. I'm extremely proud of these student-athletes and their coaches for being winners both in the classroom and on the playing fields."

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WEEK OF Nov 29, 2015

McClain signs with East Central CC

Cailee Helen McClain and family

Special: Barbara Walters: I am Done With the View and Never Felt Better

By: JOEL COLEMAN
Staff Writer sports@starkvilledailynews.com
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015

STARKVILLE, MS When the Starkville High School girls soccer team is down, the group often turns to Cailee Helen McClain to bring them up again.

Now, McClain is going to get the chance to provide a spark for a new team on the next level.

McClain, who has played multiple offensive positions for SHS, signed on Tuesday to play soccer at East Central Community College. The opportunity provides a good feeling for the Lady Yellowjackets senior, but it all still comes with a little bit of anxiety.

"I'm pretty excited, but I'm kind of nervous," McClain said. "I'm not going to be at home anymore and I'll be by myself, but I'm excited to keep playing."

For more on McClain's story, see the story by Starkville Daily News sports writer Joel Coleman in Wednesday's edition.

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Starkvilledailynews.com

WEEK OF NOV. 8, 2015

Allie Turner named MACJC Soccer All-Star

Courtesy East Central Sports Information 7 hrs ago

Horn Lake native Allie Turner is among a number of soccer players from East Central Community College who will take part in the third annual MACJC Men's and Women's All-Star Soccer Games on Nov. 14 at Holmes Community College's Ridgeland campus.

Courtesy East Central Sports Information

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WEEK OF NOV. 8, 2015

Knuth, Gross Named to all-region soccer team

East Central Community College women's soccer players Gabby Gross and Kaitlyn Knuth were named to the All-Region 23 Soccer Team following last week's Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges-Region 23 Soccer Tournament held on the campus of Hinds Community College in Raymond.

Gross

Knuth is a freshman goalkeeper and a product of West Lauderdale High School in Collinsville. Gross is a freshman defender from Nesbit and a product of Lewisburg High School

Knuth

Knuth was the only goalkeeper named to the All-Region 23 Team.

East Central advanced to the semifinals of the MACJC-Region-23 Tournament for the first time in program history before falling to eventual champion Pearl River Community College 2-1.

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WEEK OF NOV. 8, 2015

Knuth garners second MACJC Goalkeeper of the Week award

East Central Community College freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Knuth is the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Women's Soccer Goalkeeper of the Week for her play in the state tournament.

Knuth, a product of Collinsville and West Lauderdale High School, played 195 minutes in goal in two games, giving up only two goals while facing 25 shots. She had 23 saves in the two contests.

In a 2-0 quarterfinal shutout win over Meridian Community College Oct. 27, Knuth had nine saves. She had 14 saves in East Central's 2-1 double overtime loss to eventual MACJC/State Region 23 Champion Pearl River Community College Oct. 30.

Knuth also won the award the first week of the season giving up no goals and making four saves in 90 minutes in goal in a 2-0 East Central victory over Meridian on Aug. 21.

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WEEK OF NOV. 1, 2015

JUCO SOCCER

ECCC's Knuth named NJCAA Goalie of the Week

From school reports

DECATUR — East Central Community College goalkeeper Kaitlyn Knuth has added the National Junior College Athletic Association's National Division I Women's Soccer Goalie of the Week to here list of awards this week.

The freshman from West Lauderdale High School in Collinsville is also the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Women's Soccer Goalkeeper of the Week and was named to the All-Region-23 Team

In two playoff games the week of Oct. 26, Knuth played 195 minutes in goal, facing 30 shots, with 28 saves and giving up only two goals.

ALL-REGION 23 WOMEN'S TEAM

East Central Community College women's soccer players Gabby Gross and Kaitlyn Knuth were named to the All-Region 23 Soccer Team following last week's Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges-Region 23 Soccer Tournament held on the campus of Hinds Community College in Raymond.

Gross is a freshman defender from Nesbit and a product of Lewisburg High School

Knuth was the only goalkeeper named to the All-Region 23 Team.

East Central advanced to the semifinals of the MACJC-Region-23 Tournament for the first time in program history before falling to eventual champion Pearl River Community College 2-1.

MORE INFORMATION

In two playoff games, Kaitlyn Knuth saved 28 of 30 shots on goal.

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ECCC WOMEN'S SOCCER

Lady Warriors fall in semis

By ECCC sports information

The season ended for the East Central Community College women's soccer team Oct. 30 with a heartbreaking 2-1 loss to the Pearl River Community College Lady Wildcats in two overtimes in the semifinals of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges/Region 23 Tournament being played on Tom Shepherd Field on the campus of Hinds Community College in Raymond.

Sophomore forward Tamia Cavett, a product of Murrah High School, scored a first half goal to give East Central a 1-0 lead heading to the locker room. Pearl River tied the score with about 20 minutes left in the match, and then netted the game-winner in the second overtime.

It was the first time since the East Central women's soccer program began play in 2005 that a team advanced to the MACJC/Region 23 Tournament semifinals.

Coach Gray Massey's East Central squad finished the season 11-4-2 overall.

The Pearl River women improved to 14-1 on the season. The Lady Wildcats are the defending MACJC/Region 23 Champions and have won three of the last six championships. Pearl River will face Jones County Junior College in the finals Oct. 31 at 10 a.m. in Raymond.

It was the final match for 10 East Central sophomores who won 23 games over two seasons, the most by any sophomore class in program history. This year's team also had the best start in school history at 8-0. The Lady Warriors have finished in second place in the MACJC North Division two years in a row.

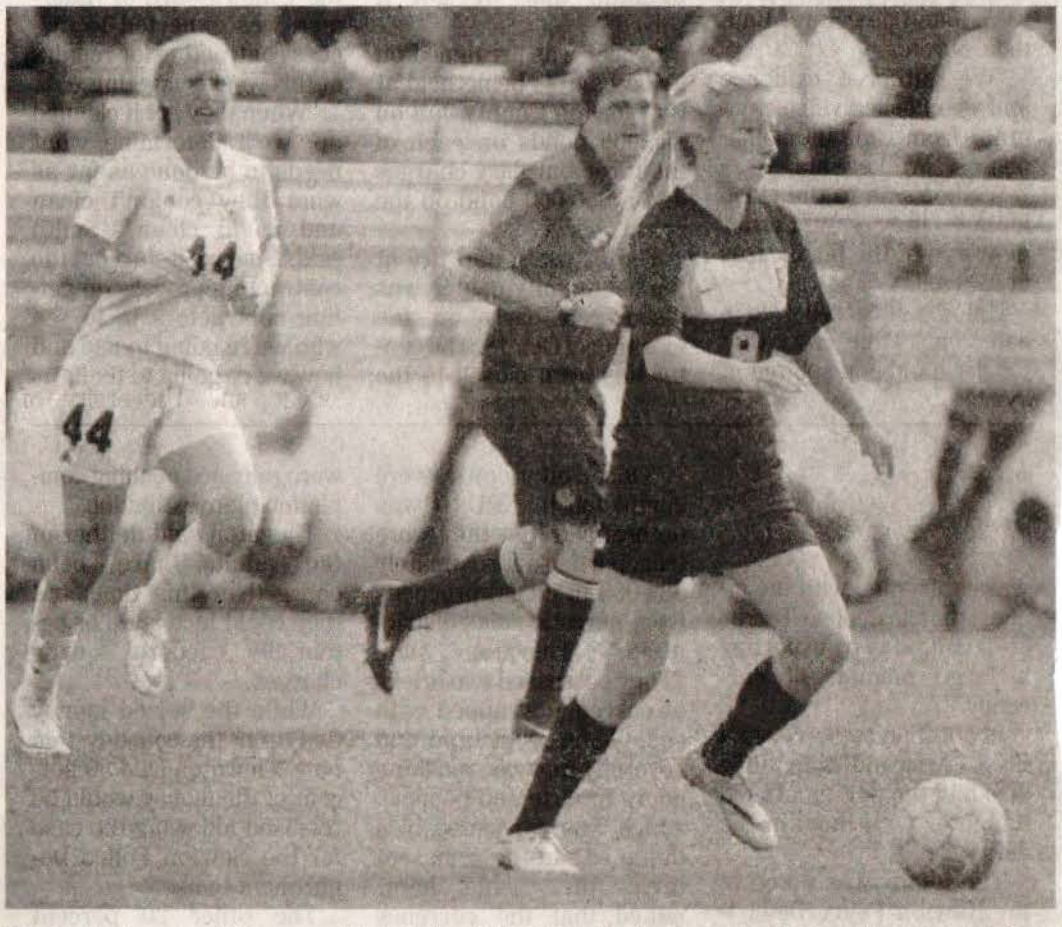
Knuth Garners Second MACJC Women's Goalkeeper of the Week Award

East Central Community College freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Knuth is the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Women's Soccer Goalkeeper of the Week for her play in the State Tournament last week.

Knuth, a product of Collinsville and West Lauderdale High School, played 195 minutes in goal in two games, giving up only two goals while facing 25 shots. She had 23 saves in the two contests.

In a 2-0 quarterfinal shutout win over Meridian Community College Oct. 27, Knuth had nine saves. She had 14 saves in East Central's 2-1 double overtime loss to eventual MACJC/State Region 23 Champion Pearl River Community College Oct. 30.

WEEK OF NOV 1, 2015



Kayla Anderson of Florence High School dribbles the ball up the field against Pearl River Community College Friday afternoon.

EC Photo

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JUNIOR COLLEGES OCTOBER 26, 2015

Gulf Coast soccer opens playoffs against East Central

SUN HERALD

PERKINSTON -- The first time Mississippi Gulf Coast played East Central, it was a wild affair.

The Bulldogs rallied from a two-goal deficit Sept. 1 to win 5-3 in Perkins ton, which will be the site of Tuesday's playoff rematch between the teams.

"That game, we had a bad five minutes or so and they scored three goals on us," Gulf Coast coach Chris Handy said. "If we have a bad 30 minutes, all of the sudden we've lost it."

Gulf Coast (13-4) finished as the second seed in the MACJC South, earning the right to host this first-round state playoff matchup against the Warriors (6-10-1). Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m., weather permitting.

Follow@MGCCCathletics on Twitter or go to Facebook.com/BulldogLIVE to follow updates Tuesday about potential postponements due to poor field conditions after the remnants of Hurricane Patricia. Officials expect to make a decision around noon Tuesday if the game will be pushed back a day.

The winner advances to the semifinals Saturday at Hinds.

Handy said East Central is a hard-working team.

"It's a playoff game," he said. "For a team that already works hard, they have a lot of incentive to come in here and work even harder."

The Bulldogs will be as healthy as they've been all season. The team has battled some injuries, and recently went through a series of suspensions due to red cards picked up in games.

"Everybody is available for the first time in a month," Handy said. "That's exciting. We're at full strength, for sure."

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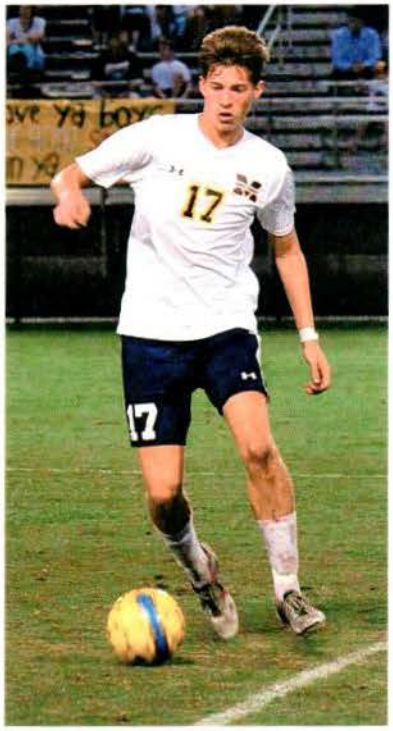
WEEK OF

JUNIOR COLLEGES OCTOBER 27, 2015

Gulf Coast hammers East Central in playoff opener



SUN HERALD

PERKINSTON – Juan Salazar's goal 32 seconds into Mississippi Gulf Coast's first-round playoff matchup against East Central [illegible] what kind of game was in store.

The Bulldogs won a soggy, sloppy, wide-open shootout 8-4 Tuesday in Perkinston to move on to the MACJC semifinals. [illegible] offensive explosion.

"It felt great to get the first goal and get us going in the playoffs," Salazar said.

Gulf Coast (14-4) is scheduled to play Hinds at 6 p.m. Saturday. Weather concerns may force the game to move to Friday.

East Central ended its season 6-11-1.

The teams combined for eight goals the first time they met this season. The sloppy play in the latest game got an extra boost [illegible] Hurricane Patricia.

"I think most of it was the field," Gulf Coast coach Chris Handy said. "We're an up-and-down team; I think we're best when we're [illegible] rather than keeping too much possession."

Salazar added another goal along with a pair by Jordan Parron and James Beattie's first to lead 5-2 at halftime.

Beattie added another nine minutes into the second half, followed a minute later by a Lewis Tillman goal to make it 7-2.

"The conditions were definitely tough, but we dealt well with it," Gulf Coast's James Beattie said. "The four goals you can say [illegible] conditions, but our eight goals were also due to the conditions."

The Warriors made it 7-4 with a pair of 57th-minute goals before Salazar pounced on a turnover and blasted his hat-trick [illegible] 25 minutes to play.

Gulf Coast heads to the next playoff game with a dose of confidence, having beaten Hinds 2-1 in Raymond early in the season.

"That's a really tough game. It's going to be a tight game. For sure they'll put up a battle, just like they did in the second game [illegible] went into extra time."

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

EC SOCCER

Women tie Holmes, men fall

By ECCC sports information

The East Central Community College women's soccer team could have clinched the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges North Division title with a win over Holmes Community College on Oct. 16, but the two teams fought to a 1-1 tie.

In the men's match, an East Central win would have put the Warriors into postseason play as well, but the Holmes men pulled out a 1-0 win. The Warriors still have a chance to make the state tournament, but must wait on the results of other MACJC matches this week.

Freshman midfielder Kenzie Jenkins got the lone goal for the East Central women (10-3-2, 5-1-2). The Holmes Lady Indians are now 7-5-1 and 3-3-1. The Lady Warriors' opponent and location in state tournament play will be decided this week.

The men's soccer team (6-10-1, 3-4-1) earned its second straight shutout on the road with a 1-0 victory over the Itawamba Community College Indians on Oct. 14 in Fulton. Jacob Johnson scored his team-leading eighth goal of the season in the 51st minute for the game winner.

In the women's action, East Central outshot Itawamba 13-3, but came up on the short end of the 2-1 score. Freshman defender Gabby Gross got the East Central goal.

The Warriors will play their season finale Friday, Oct. 23, at home in Decatur against Pearl River Community College. The match begins at 4 p.m.

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WEEK OF Oct 11, 2015

ECCC men shut down Northwest, women tie

Behind goals from Jacob Johnson and Devon Pitts, the East Central Community College men's soccer team secured a 2-0 shutout win over the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers Friday on the Northwest campus in Senatobia.

The East Central women and Northwest women battled through two overtimes before settling for a 0-0 tie.

Johnson, a sophomore forward from Destrehan High School (La.), scored East Central's first goal on a penalty kick. Pitts, a freshman midfielder out of George County High School in Lucedale, followed Johnson with the Warriors' second goal.

East Central improved to 5-9-1 on the season and 2-3-1 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges North Division play. Northwest fell to 10-5-1 overall and 3-3 in the North Division.

With the tie, the East Central women moved to 10-2-1 on the season and 5-0-1 in the division. East Central has already clinched a berth in the postseason. The Northwest Lady Rangers fell to 3-9-3 overall and 1-4-1 in the North Division.

Both East Central teams return to action today when they travel to Fulton to face Itawamba Community College at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. They return home to Decatur on Friday to host Holmes Community College at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

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OF Sept 20, 2015

ECCC women's soccer moves to 7-0 on season

By ECCC sports information

The East Central Community College women's soccer team squeaked by Holmes Community College 1-0 with a second half goal Tuesday, Sept. 15, to remain undefeated on the 2015 season following the match played in Ridgeland.

Coach Gray Massey's women are now 7-0 on the season, and 4-0 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges North Division play. The previous best start of a season for the program was 4-0.

The Holmes women dropped to 3-2 on the year, and 1-1 in division play.

The lone goal of the women's match was by East Central forward Presley McLemore in the 61st minute. The freshman out of Brandon High School now has four goals on the season to lead her team and the North Division.

East Central outshot Holmes 14-4. In the last two games, ECCC has outshot its opponents 30-6.

The East Central men fell to Holmes 4-1. Sophomore midfielder Connor Brennan, a product of Pearl High School, scored his third goal of the season for the Warriors on a rebound off a penalty kick.

The Warriors are now 3-5-1 overall and 1-2-1 in division play. Holmes improved to 3-2 and 1-1 in the division.

The East Central women return to action Saturday, Sept. 19, against the Mississippi College Junior Varsity in a match that begins at 3:30 p.m. in Clinton.

Both East Central squads are in action against at Southwest Mississippi on Friday, Sept. 25, in Summit. The women's teams face off at 2 p.m. and men's action follows at 4 p.m.

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WEEK OF Sept. 13, 2015

ECCC women remain undefeated

The East Central Community College women's soccer team got goals from three different players to remain undefeated with a 3-2 win over Itawamba Friday, Sept. 11, in Decatur.

Coach Gray Massey's women are now 6-0 on the season, and 3-0 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges North Division play. With each win, the Lady Warriors set the school record for the most victories to open a season without a loss.

East Central got goals from sophomore midfielder Allie Turner out of Horn Lake High School, sophomore midfielder Kayla Anderson out of Florence High School, and freshman forward Presley McLemore out of Brandon High School. Sophomore forward Carrissa Stevenson, a product of Harrison Central High School in Gulfport, assisted on all three goals.

East Central outshot Itawamba 16-2 in the match.

The East Central men earned a 1-1 draw with Itawamba in the second match of the day. The Warriors are now 3-4-1 overall and 1-1-1 in division play.

Playing a man down, the Warriors earned the equalizer on a penalty kick by sophomore forward Jacob Johnson to gain the tie. It was the fourth goal of the season for the Destrehan High School (La.) product.

Both East Central squads return to action against North Division opponent Holmes on Tuesday, Sept. 15, in Ridgeland. The women's teams face off at 2 p.m. and men's action follows at 4 p.m. The East Central women also will play Saturday, Sept. 19, when they travel to Clinton to battle the Mississippi College Junior Varsity at 3:30 p.m.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

East Central Women's Soccer tops reigning Division Champion Hinds

The East Central Community College women's soccer team moved to 4-0 on the season with a 2-1 win over Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges North Division foe Hinds Community College Friday, Sept. 4, in Raymond.

The East Central men dropped a 4-0 decision to the Hinds men to fall to 2-4 on the 2015 campaign.

Coach Gray Massey's women's squad also started the 2014 season with a 4-0 record.

In defeating last season's North Division champions and state finalist Hinds Lady Eagles, East Central sophomore forward Carrissa Stevenson buried a 30-yard strike with 6:30 left in the match for the game winner. It was the second goal of the season for the product of Harrison Central High School in Gulfport. Freshman midfielder Kenzie Jenkins of McLaurin High School scored East Central's first goal with an assist by sophomore forward Tamia Cavett, a product of Murrah High School and the leading scorer in the MACJC.

On the men's side, the East Central Warriors could not find the net in the shutout loss to last year's North Division champion Hinds Eagles.

Both teams return to action Wednesday, Sept. 9, when they host North Division foe Northwest Mississippi Community College in Decatur. Women's action is at 3 p.m.; the men's teams play at 5 p.m.

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WEEK OF August 30, 2015

MGCCC men PRCC women win their soccer games on Tuesday

Posted: Sep 02, 2015 12:07 AM CST
Updated: Sep 02, 2015 12:07 AM CST

By AJ Giardina CONNECT

BILOXI, MS (WLOX) - Defense is something Mississippi Gulf Coast Bulldogs men's soccer coach Chris Handy stresses. His players failed to consistently stop East Central's offense, but the Bulldogs were able to pull out a comeback 5-3 victory.

James Beattie scored a goal and had two assists to help propel the Bulldogs under the win column.

In the 63rd minute, defender Jordan Pardon scored the tying goal. With 3:44 remaining in the game, Juan Salazar scored the go ahead goal when Matt Ross took a free kick and the ball hit a player from East Central, Salazar was there and kicked home the goal. At first, the assistant referee ruled that Salazar was offside. However, the referee overruled and said Salazar was played outside by a defender's play.

Bulldogs head coach Handy said, "A win's a win, and we'll take that in this league, but we've got stuff to hash out over the next few days."

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Lady Bulldogs dropped a 2-1 decision to East Central Tuesday. The Lady Bulldogs drop to 0-3 while East Central remains unbeaten at 3-0.

Mississippi Gulf Coast head coach Jackie Rhodes said, "The second half was really exciting to watch. I think we kind of came alive a little bit. We got our first goal of the season, so that put a little pep in our step. This was the first time I was able to see that our team really wanted to win the game."

The Lady Bulldogs travel to Poplarville Friday for a South Division game facing arch rival Pearl River.

The Lady Wildcats dominated Hinds 7-0 Tuesday at Raymond. Sophomore Lyndsey Lee scored a hat trick.

Pearl River is now 2-0.

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WEEK OF _____

East Central soccer teams split with Meridian

By STEVE SWOGETINSKY
Sports Editor

The East Central Community College women's soccer team clamed a 2-0 shutout victory over Meridian Community College Friday afternoon, Aug. 21, while the ECCC men fell to the MCC Eagles 2-1 in two overtime sessions.

The matches played at MCC's C.D. Smith Field were the season openers for both ECCC squads.

The Warriors fell in a heartbreaker in the opening match at Meridian when MCC's Jordan Walton scored his second goal of the game at the 104th minute to break a 1-1 tie and give the Eagles a 2-1 victory in double overtime.

Freshman midfielder Devon Pitts out of George County High School scored ECCC's only goal in the first half off a corner kick, with the assist from Omar Gutierrez of Mooreville High School and Chase Hughes of Southeast Lauderdale High School.

In the women's matchup, East Central scored a goal in each half for the 2-0 win. Freshman forward Presley McLemore from Brandon High School and sophomore forward Tamia Cavett of Murrah High School netted goals for East Central.

The East Central men's soccer team was to be back in action Tuesday when they travel to Wesson to take on Copiah-Lincoln. The women's

Community College

and men's teams will host Southwest on Thursday in Decatur. The women will face off at 1 p.m. and the men at 3 p.m.

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WEEK OF Aug. 23, 2015

NC players make impact at EC

These products of Newton County High School are members of the 2015 East Central Community College soccer teams. Pictured are (from left) freshman defender Maggie Luke, freshman defender Samm Thompson, freshman forward Will Stewart, sophomore defender Kellen Clark and freshman defender Parker McWhirter. The Lady Warriors and Warriors are led by head coaches Gray Massey and Kenneth Thompson, respectively.

EC Photo

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WEEK OF Aug 23, 2015

ECCC women's soccer wins, men fall in 2OT

The East Central women's soccer team claimed a 2-0 shutout victory over Meridian Community College Friday afternoon, Aug. 21, while the men fell to the MCC Eagles 2-1 in two overtimes.

The matches played at MCC's C.D. Smith Field were the season openers for both ECCC squads.

The Warriors fell in a heartbreaker in the opening match at Meridian when MCC's Jordan Walton scored his second goal of the game at the 104th minute to break a 1-1 tie and give the Eagles a 2-1 victory in double overtime.

Freshman midfielder Devon Pitts out of George County High School scored ECCC's only goal in the first half off a corner kick, with the assist from Omar Gutierrez of Mooreville High School and Chase Hughes of Southeast Lauderdale High School.

In the women's matchup, East Central scored a goal in each half for the 2-0 win. Freshman forward Presley McLemore from Brandon High School and sophomore forward Tamia Cavett of Murrah High School netted goals for East Central.

The women's and men's teams will host Southwest on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 1 and 3 p.m. in Decatur.

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WEEK OF Aug. 23, 2015

EAST CENTRAL SOCCER

Photo courtesy of ECCC

Members of the 2015 East Central Community College men's soccer team and their respective high schools include, from left, first row, manager Chris Yarbrough, Florence; forward Courtland Moore, Center Hill; midfielder/forward Blake Bonds, Germantown; defenders Kellen Clark of Newton County and Carlos Guitierrez of Mooreville; midfielder Omar Guitierrez, Mooreville; forward Jacob Johnson, Destrehan (La.); midfielders Connor Brennan of Pearl and Fredy Guitierrez, Pontotoc; and manager Dalton Wilson; second row, manager Khyla Jones; midfielders Lazaro Hernandez of Forest and Abimael Rivera of Oxford; defender Gage Leifried, Southeast Lauderdale; midfielder/defender Seth Summerlin, Florence; defender Danilo Mejia, Destrehan (La.); midfielders Matthew Morea of McLaurin and Richard Jacobson of Pascagoula; defender Jamar Simms, Pascagoula; midfielder/forward Chase Hughes, Southeast Lauderdale; and manager Katherine Moran; third row, assistant coach Gray Massey, goal keeper Zack Vickers, Northwest Rankin; midfielder/defender Nick Thomas, Desoto Central; defender Durham Norman, Florence; midfielder Devon Pitts, George County; defenders Parker McWhirter and Samm Thompson, both of Newton County; forward Will Stewart, Newton County; goal keeper Jakob Williams, Horn Lake; and head coach Kenneth Thompson, who begins his 17th season leading the Warriors. Not pictured is manager Darrell Soto, Forest.

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WEEK OF Aug. 23, 2015

MCC men, ECCC women take wins in soccer showdowns

From school reports

The wait is finally over and soccer season has finally arrived on the campus of Meridian Community College.

The Meridian Community College soccer program opened the 2015 season back on Friday afternoon by hosting East Central Community College at C.D. Smith Field in a doubleheader.

MCC was able to come away with a doubleheader split with ECCC to open the season in a pair of matches that were closely contested between the two schools.

The Meridian Community College men opened up the day by taking a dramatic 2-1 victory over ECCC to give the Eagles the season opening victory.

MCC trailed the Warriors 1-0 after one half of play, but the home team was to battle back behind its newest freshman sensation.

Freshman Jordan Walton scored his first collegiate goal for the Eagles in the opening minutes of the second half to bring the match to a 1-1 tie.

The match would head into a pair of extra sessions and Walton would score his second goal of the day in the second extra session to propel the Eagles to the one-goal victory over ECCC.

The MCC women weren't as fortunate on Friday afternoon as the ECCC women came away with a 2-0 shutout victory to preserve the road split. East Central scored one goal in each half to take the shutout victory over the Lady Eagles to open the 2015 season.

MCC will return to the field with another pair of home games on Tuesday by hosting Itawamba Community College at C.D. Smith Field. The women will take to the field at 5 p.m. and the men will follow with their scheduled match at 7 p.m.

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WEEK OF Aug 16, 2015

EC kicks off 2015 soccer

The East Central Community College men's and women's soccer teams both open their seasons Friday, Aug. 21, at Meridian Community College. The men's teams will take the pitch at 1 p.m., with the women's teams to follow at 3 p.m.

The matches will be the first of the year in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

The home opener for the ECCC men's and women's teams will be Thursday, Aug. 27, at 2 and 4 p.m. against Southwest Mississippi Community College.

Kenneth Thompson is entering his 17th season

• See KICKS on 10A

• Kicks

from 9A

as head coach of the ECCC men's team hoping for more offensive production out of his squad this season. Thompson's 2014 team finished the season 5-10-2 overall and 1-7 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges North Division league play.

"We had a good squad last season, one of the better defensive teams in our league," said Thompson. "Scoring goals was our weakness. In 15 of our 17 matches, we were either tied or had the lead at halftime, but just could not finish. Defense helps you win, but only if you can score some goals."

Thompson said he has a good nucleus of returning players for the 2015 season, combined with a talented group of freshmen who he hopes can put some balls in the net for the Warriors.

The men's soccer team will have nine returning sophomores, including seven starters, to go with 15 freshmen and one transfer.

"We started a lot of freshmen last year, so we will be a much more experienced soccer team this season," noted Thompson. "We are always looking to improve from year to year, and we want to improve on finishing games this season. If we have the lead, I want us to play with that lead and finish it out. That is the difference I am looking for this year. If we can improve offensively, we can finish some games."

Thompson will rely on his returning defensive starters and midfield to carry the Warriors until the newcomers get acclimated to the team and college soccer.

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WEEK OF Jan. 24, 2015

ECCC Lady Warriors are young but talented

from staff reports

Lots of new faces will take the field for East Central Community College during the 2015 fast-pitch softball campaign, but head coach Kristin Chaney, who begins her third season leading the Lady Diamond Warriors, is confident the team will be successful.

"This year's team will be very young, but very talented," Chaney said. "I expect us to compete in every game and give ourselves a shot to win."

The Lady Warriors begin the new season Wednesday, Feb. 4, against Alabama Southern College with doubleheader action beginning at 1 p.m. on the Monroeville, Ala., campus.

The home opener is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, February 7 against Holmes Community College. Special activities are planned including a Drawdown Fundraiser.

Tickets for the Drawdown are available from any Lady Warrior player or coach. Winners will be drawn on game day and those purchasing a ticket will receive a free hamburger and drink.

Opening Day is also being hailed as "Cancer Awareness Day." The team will wear pink jerseys and cancer survivor and longtime Lady Warrior softball supporter Roger Whitlock will throw out the first pitch.

One of the team goals is to qualify to host a first round playoff game. In order to do that, the Lady Warriors have to finish in the top two slots in division play.

"This group of young ladies is very competitive. They are a very close-knit group and are hungry for championships. We expect this team to represent EC softball and uphold the tradition for which the Lady Warriors are known."

Only four sophomores return from the 2014 team, which dropped a best-of-three series with Itawamba Community College during first-round playoffs and completed the season with a 33-16 overall record.

Mallory Turner, who played left field during her freshman season, will shift to third base and continue to be the leadoff hitter this season. She was the recipient of the Lady Warriors' 2014 Hustle Award.

Former right fielder Anna Katherine Nowell will take over duties at first base and Karoline Holsonback will handle the majority of time at catcher. Nowell was an All-State and All-District player at Leake Academy and Holsonback is a product of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., where she was named West Alabama Most Outstanding Player.

Christen Benson, an All-District selection from Brookhaven High School, will see playing time in the outfield.

Freshmen and their respective high schools include pitchers Hannah Hassell., Lacey Hill and Chloe Thaggard, Leake Academy; catchers Andi Hannaford, and Cayla Myers; infielders Rachel Davis; Maegen Ellis Mahalia Gibson, and Mallory Lee, and outfielders Caitlyn Aldous, Katlyn Duke, Neshoba Central; and Summer Lavender.

"Each one of these young ladies will contribute to our success," Chaney said. "Ellis, Gibson and Lee will hold down the middle. All four of our pitchers will be freshmen, but each is talented enough to carry that role. Thaggard and Hill will handle most of the pitching duties. We will have three freshmen in the outfield as well."

Hassell was named to the Alabama Softball Top Ten, was an All-State and All-County selection and chosen Most Valuable Player.

Hill was selected Offensive Player of the Year and was named Most Valuable Player and All-District.

Thaggard was selected Most Valuable Player, Team Captain and All-Star.

Hannaford, an All-State and All-Conference selection, served as Team Captain and was named to the All-Star Team.

Duke was an All-State and All-District selection and was chosen Best Defensive Player.

Fans who attend Lady Warrior home games will also notice a new locker room, which was completed last summer.

Student managers are Justin Moore and John Davis, both of Leake Academy; Abigail McCool of Winston Academy; and Skyler Simmons, Bob Jones High School in Madison

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WEEK OF June 21, 2015

Three ECCC softball players earn all-region 23 honors

Three members of the record-setting East Central Community College softball team have been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 All-Region Team following the 2015 season.

Mahalia Gibson, Lacey Hill and Chloe Thaggard were named All-Region 23.

Gibson, a freshman, batted .406 with 80 hits, including 24 doubles and 52 RBIs, all team bests. She tied for the team lead in home runs with 11 and had a .971 fielding average. Gibson also was named to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team and Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges First Team All-State.

Hill, a freshman pitcher who prepped at Kilbourne High School, was 25-9 on the mound for the Lady Diamond Warriors this season, with a 2.4 earned run average and 172 strikeouts in 215 innings pitched. She also was named to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team.

Thaggard, a freshman pitcher and product of Leake Academy, had a 23-5 record with a 1.7 ERA and 173 strikeouts in 178 innings on the mound.

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WEEK OF June 7, 2015

ECCC softball players receive end of year awards

Several East Central Community College softball players received team awards at the conclusion of the 2015 spring season.

Receiving team awards were: freshman shortstop Maegen Ellis of West Point and Oak Hill Academy, Baserunning Award; sophomore second baseman Mallory Turner of Collinsville and West Lauderdale High School, Hustle Award; sophomore catcher Karoline Holsonback of Kennedy, Ala., and South Lamar High School, Most Improved; freshmen pitchers Lacey Hill of Kilbourne, La., and Kilbourne High School and Chloe Thaggard of Philadelphia and Leake Academy, co-recipients of the Pitching Award; freshman outfielder Katlyn Duke of Philadelphia and Neshoba Central High School, Most Outstanding Defense; freshman first baseman Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg and Oak Grove High School, Most Outstanding Offense and Most Valuable Player; and sophomore third baseman Anna Katherine Nowell of Philadelphia and Leake Academy, Lady Warrior Award.

Mahalia Gibson

Chloe Thaggard

The ECCC softball team finished the season with a 48-14 record and a second place finish in the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship tournament.

The Lady Diamond Warriors are coached by Head Coach Kristin Chaney and Assistant Coach Courtney Nunn.

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WEEK OF May 31, 2015

Lady Warriors' Chloe Thaggard named to all-region team for 2015

Chloe Thaggard of Philadelphia and two of her East Central Community College Lady Warrior teammates have been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 All-Region Team following the 2015 season

Other members of the record-setting East Central Community College softball team have being named were Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg and Lacey Hill of Kilbourne, La..

Thaggard, a freshman pitcher and product of Leake Academy, had a 23-5 record with a 1.7 ERA and 173 strikeouts in 178 innings on the mound.

Team awards

Several East Central Community College softball players received team awards at the conclusion of the 2015 spring season. Receiving team awards were: freshman shortstop Maegen Ellis of West Point and Oak Hill Academy, Baserunning Award; sophomore second baseman Mallory Turner of Collinsville and West Lauderdale High School, Hustle Award; sophomore catcher Karoline Holsonback of Kennedy, Ala., and South Lamar High School.

Chloe Thaggard

The Most Improved; freshmen pitchers award went to Lacey Hill of Kilbourne, La.,l and Chloe Thaggard of Philadelphia and Leake Academy. They were co-recipients of the Pitching Award. Outfielder Katlyn Duke of Philadelphia and Neshoba Central High School, received the Most Outstanding Defense. Freshman first baseman Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg and Oak Grove High School, Most Outstanding Offense and Most Valuable Player; and sophomore third baseman Anna Katherine Nowell of Philadelphia and Leake Academy, Lady Warrior Award.

The ECCC softball team finished the season with a 48-14 record and a second place finish in the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship tournament.

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WEEK OF May 24, 2015

Three ECCC softball players earn All-Region 23 honors

From school reports

Three members of the record-setting East Central Community College softball team have been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 All-Region Team following the 2015 season.

Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg, Lacey Hill of Kilbourne, La., and Chloe Thaggard of Philadelphia were named All-Region 23.

Gibson, a freshman first baseman and a product of Oak Grove High School, batted .406 with 80 hits, including 24 doubles and 52 RBIs, all team bests. She tied for the team lead in home runs with 11 and had a .971 fielding average. Gibson also was named to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team and Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges First Team All-State.

MORE INFORMATION

East Central CC finished the year with a 48-14 mark.

Hill, a freshman pitcher who prepped at Kilbourne High School, was 25-9 on the mound for the Lady Diamond Warriors this season, with a 2.4 earned run average and 172 strikeouts in 215 innings pitched. She also was named to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team.

Thaggard, a freshman pitcher and product of Leake Academy, had a 23-5 record with a 1.7 ERA and 173 strikeouts in 178 innings on the mound.

ECCC finished the season with a 48-14 record and a second place finish in the 2015 NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship tournament.

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WEEK OF May 24, 2015

--- East Central Community College sophomore infielder Karoline Holsonback (South Lamar High School) led the Warriors to a runner up finish at the 2015 NJCAA Division III World Series. She batted .263 (41-for-156) with seven runs scored, 11 doubles, one triple and 15 RBIs in 62 games.

--- East Central Community College sophomore infielder Karoline Holsonback (South Lamar High School) is batting .284 (38-for-154) with six runs scored, 11 doubles, one triple and 14 RBIs in 54 games.

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WEEK OF May 24, 2015

Ellis, Gibson named to MACJC All-State team

From school reports | Posted: Friday, May 22, 2015 4:00 am

DECATUR — East Central Community College softball players Maegen Ellis of West Point and Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg have been named first team Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-State for their play during the recently completed season.

Ellis and Gibson are members of an ECCC team which finished runner up in the recent National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship. The second-place finish in the nation is the highest-ever for the Decatur college's softball program. East Central finished the season with a 48-14 record.

Ellis, a freshman shortstop who prepped at Oak Hill Academy, hit .310 for East Central this spring, including 42 RBIs and a team-leading 61 runs scored.

Gibson, a freshman first baseman and a product of Oak Grove High School, batted .406 with 80 hits, including 24 doubles and 52 RBIs, all team bests. She also was named to the NJCAA National Championship All-Tournament Team.

Ellis and Gibson tied for the team lead in home runs with 11 each.

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 17, 2015

Four ECCC Softball Players Win Awards at National Championship

Four East Central Community College Lady Diamond Warrior softball players received awards at the conclusion of the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship played May 13-16 at Traceway Park in Clinton.

ECCC advanced to the championship game of the 16-team tournament before finishing second in the nation. It was the highest-ever finish for the Decatur college's softball program.

The Lady Diamond Warriors ended their record-breaking season with a 48-14 record.

Lady Diamond Warrior outfielder Katlyn Duke, a product of Neshoba Central High School, won the Marucci Elite Hitter Award as the tournament's top batter. She had 10 hits in the eight games, including a home run, a triple, and two doubles. She knocked in 10 runs.

First baseman Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School, second baseman Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale High School, and pitcher Lacey Hill of Kilbourne (La.) High School were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Gibson had nine hits, including four doubles and a home run and six RBIs. Turner had 10 hits and two RBIs. Hill pitched 43.1 innings over seven games, winning four and losing one with two no-decisions. She struck out 36 batters.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 17, 2015

pg. 2

ECCC

The Lady Diamond Warriors grabbed the lead first, 1-0, when Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central High School tripled in the bottom of the fourth, scoring Anna Katherine Nowell of Leake Academy, who had singled.

Kankakee answered and then some in the top of the sixth, scoring all five of its runs on four hits, including two home runs, to take a 5-1 lead. East Central was unable to score again as the Cavaliers claimed the national title.

ECCC fought its way to the championship game by defeating Des Moines 12-7 in a rematch Saturday morning before beating Johnson County Community College out of Kansas 6-2 on Saturday afternoon in the final elimination game.

The win over Johnson County put the Lady Diamond Warriors in the title game against the Cavaliers of Kankakee.

Against Johnson County, Maegen Ellis, a product of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, hit a grand slam in the top of the seventh inning to break a 2-2 tie and give the Lady Diamond Warriors the 6-2 victory.

In the win over Des Moines in the first game on Saturday, the lead changed hands six times. With the score tied 7-7 going into the top of the eighth, East Central scored five times to take the 12-7 win, powered by a grand slam BY Duke.

ECCC opened tournament play Wednesday, May 13, with a 3-2 win over No. 12 seed Macomb Community College out of Michigan, followed by the 16-2 loss to No. 4 seed Des Moines and a 7-0 win over No. 14 seed Mercyhurst North East of Pennsylvania on Thursday. On Friday, the Lady Diamond Warriors got a dramatic 2-1 bottom of the eighth inning win over No. 1 tournament seed and No. 4 ranked Phoenix College out of Arizona, followed by a 3-2 victory over No. 7 seed Lincoln Land Community College out of Illinois to advance to play Saturday.

Lady Diamond Warrior outfielder Duke won the Marucci Elite Hitter Award as the tournament's top batter. First baseman Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School, second baseman Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale High School, and pitcher Lacey Hill of Kilbourne (La.) High School were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Duke had 10 hits in the eight games, including a home run, a triple, and two doubles. She knocked in 10 runs. Gibson had nine hits, including four doubles and a home run and six RBIs. Turner had 10 hits and two RBIs. Hill pitched 43.1 innings over seven games, winning four and losing one with two no-decisions. She struck out 36 batters.

> "We only lose four sophomores off this year's team and we have some talented freshmen beginning school at East Central."
> --*Kristin Chaney*

seemed to battle adversity the entire national championship tournament, but they never gave up.

"Even when we were down four runs in the final inning of the final game, they still thought they would win.

"We only lose four sophomores off this year's team and we have some talented freshmen beginning school at East Central in the fall, so I like our chances to be highly competitive next season."

East Central, the No. 5 seed in the tournament, had to win five straight games in the NJCAA National Championship tournament to advance to the finals after losing 16-2 to Des Moines Area Community College of Iowa on Thursday to fall into the losers' bracket. Overall, ECCC finished 6-2 in the four-day, 16-team tournament.

ECCC entered the championship game against Kankakee after having already played two games on Saturday and sitting through rain delays. The No 8 seed Cavaliers out of Kankakee, Ill., were 4-0 in the tournament up to that point and had not played since 4 p.m. the previous day.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR _____

WEEK OF May 17, 2015

ECCC can't top Kankakee for national crown

• *Softball gets best finish in school history*

The East Central Community College Lady Diamond Warriors advanced to the championship game of the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship Saturday, May 16, before falling to Kankakee Community College 5-1.

The second-place finish in the nation is the highest-ever for the Decatur college's softball program.

The Lady Diamond Warriors ended their record-breaking season with a 48-14 record.

In addition to finishing second at the NJCAA National Championship, Head Coach Kristin Chaney's team also finished second in the South Division of Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges league play, second in the MACJC State Tournament, and runner-up in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament.

"This was a very special year for East Central Community College softball," said Chaney. "I just cannot say enough about the heart of these players and their will to win. We

• See ECCC on 10A

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 17, 2015

East Central falls short in NJCAA final

A 5-run inning helps give Kankakee title

The Clarion-Ledger

East Central Community advanced to the championship game of the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship Saturday before falling to Kankakee (Illinois), 5-1, at Traceway Park in Clinton.

The second-place finish in the national championship is the highest ever for the Decatur college's softball program.

The Lady Warriors (48-14) had to win five straight games to advance to the finals after losing, 16-2, to Des Moines Area (Iowa) in the tournament opener. ECCC fought its way to the championship game by defeating Des Moines, 12-7, in a rematch Saturday morning before beating Johnson County (Kansas), 6-2, in a semifinal game.

Lady Warrior outfielder Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central won the Marruci Elite Hitter Award as the tournament's best hitter. First baseman Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove, pitcher Lacey Hill of Kilbourne (Louisiana) and second baseman Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Kankakee pitcher Charlie Nolan (23-3) gave up only three hits and one walk while strking out four.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ___

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER ✓

WEEK OF May 17, 2015

NJCAA all-tournament team members

East Central Community College softball players receiving awards at the conclusion of the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship were, from left, Katlyn Duke, Marucci Elite Hitter Award, and Mallory Turner, Lacey Hill, and Mahalia Gibson, All-Tournament Team.

ECCC

from 9A

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ✓

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 17, 2015

ECCC finishes second

The East Central Community College softball team made history on Saturday, but that wasn't quite enough for head coach Kristen Chaney.

The Lady Warriors reached the championship game of the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship on Saturday before eventually falling to Kankakee Community College 5-1 in the finals.

With the loss, the Lady Warriors end a record-breaking season with a 48-14 record. The second-place finish was the highest ever for East Central.

"We had a good run at it," Chaney said. "All this year has been very special. We just fell short at the end. I'm proud of the girls and what they accomplished. It stings a little bit right now to get that close and not win it but I think it will mean a lot to our program in the future. It was a good ride."

ECCC from page C1

East Central had to win five straight games to advance to the finals after losing 16-2 to Des Moines Area Community College on Thursday to fall into the losers' bracket. Overall, ECCC finished 6-2 in the four-day tournament.

ECCC fought its way to the championship game by defeating Des Moines 12-7 in a rematch Saturday morning before beating Johnson County Community College out of Kansas 6-2 on Saturday afternoon in the final elimination game.

"I wished we could have gotten over that hump," Chaney said. "But coming out of the losers bracket took its toll on our pitching. But Kankakee is a very good team and they are always at the national tournament. We got a little tired at the end but Kankakee deserved it, they went undefeated and were a very good team."

ECCC opened tournament play Wednesday, May 13, with a 3-2 win over No. 12 seed Macomb Community College out of Michigan, followed by a 16-2 loss to No. 4 seed Des Moines Area Community College of Iowa and a 7-0 win over No. 14 seed Mercyhurst North East of Pennsylvania on Thursday.

Lady Diamond Warrior outfielder Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central High School won the Marruci Elite Hitter Award as the tournament's best hitter. First baseman Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School, Pitcher Lacey Hill of Kilbourne (La.) High School, and second baseman Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale High School were named to the All-Tournament Team.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 10, 2015

ECCC Lady Warriors fall one game short

East Central Community College needed just one win in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Tournament on Saturday, May 9, but the Lady Diamond Warriors were swept by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College 4-3 and 2-0. Gulf Coast is the 2015 Region 23 Champion, and ECCC is runner-up.

The NJCAA Region 23 Tournament was played at Community Bank Park on the campus of Jones County Junior College in Ellisville.

ECCC had already qualified for a berth in the 2015 NJCAA Division II Softball Championship Series by virtue of its 4-3 win over No. 1 LSU-Eunice on Thursday and a 1-0, extra-inning win over No. 2 Jones County on Friday in the Region 23 Tournament. The national championship series will be played May 13-16 at Traceway Park in Clinton. Gulf Coast will be the other NJCAA Region 23 representative in Clinton. Brackets have not been announced.

ECCC and Gulf Coast are no strangers on the softball diamond, having now met eight times this season.

The Lady Diamond Warriors would strike first in game one with two runs in the top of the first inning on a single by Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale High School, a sacrifice bunt by Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, a single by Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School, a Gulf Coast error, and a ground ball fielder's choice by Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School.

ECCC plated another run in the bottom of the third on singles by Ellis and Gibson and a ground ball fielder's choice by Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia.

ECCC freshman pitcher Lacey Hill didn't give up a hit until the bottom of the fourth, when the Lady Bulldogs picked up three hits including a grand slam home run by Alyssa Hardy that gave Gulf Coast a 4-3 lead.

The Lady Diamond Warriors threatened in the top of the seventh with a runner on second and only one out, but were unable to produce the tying run.

Hill, a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School, took the loss, giving up only three hits. ECCC had seven hits in game one.

The Lady Bulldogs would take an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning, with four hits off of the usually dominant ECCC freshman pitcher Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy.

Gulf Coast made those two runs count as they held on for the 2-0 win. Lady Bulldogs pitcher Paige Breal held ECCC to just one hit.

Thaggard took the loss for East Central, giving up nine hits over six innings.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 10, 2015

ECCC qualifies for NJCAA Division II softball tourney

From school reports

CLINTON — No. 11 East Central Community College was set to open its quest for a national title against No. 17 Macomb Community College of Warren, Mich., on Wednesday, in the first round of the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship at Traceway Park in Clinton

ECCC is the No. 5 seed in the 16-team, double-elimination tournament. The Macomb Lady Monarchs out of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association are the No. 12 seed.

The Lady Diamond Warriors of East Central are 42-12 on the season and finished second in both the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and NJCAA Region 23 tournaments. Macomb is 38-8 and was runner-up in the MCCAA State Tournament and won the NJCAA Region J Tournament.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College is the No. 2 seed in NJCAA National Championship, which runs through May 16. You can follow the Lady Diamond Warriors on the radio at http://850amwqst.com/ or by clicking on the link on the front of www.eccc.edu. You also can follow action on Twitter at @ECCCSoftball.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 10, 2015

Gulf Coast knocks ECCC out of Region 23

East Central Community College needed just one win in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Tournament on Saturday, May 9, but the Lady Diamond Warriors were swept by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College 4-3 and 2-0.

Gulf Coast is the 2015 Region 23 Champion, and ECCC is runner-up.

The NJCAA Region 23 Tournament was played at Community Bank Park on the campus of Jones County Junior College in Ellisville.

ECCC had already qualified for a berth in the 2015 NJCAA Division II Softball Championship Series by virtue of its 4-3 win over No. 1 LSU-Eunice on Thursday and a 1-0, extra-inning win over No. 2 Jones County on Friday in the Region 23 Tournament.

ECCC, ranked 11th, was scheduled to open Division II play against 17th-ranked Macomb Community College of Michign on Wednesday in Clinton.Gulf Coast will be the other NJCAA Region 23 representative in Clinton.

East Central is the fifth seed in the 16-team, double-elimination. Macomb, out of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association, is the 12th seed.

ECCC and Gulf Coast are no strangers on the softball diamond, having now met eight times this season.

The Lady Diamond Warriors would strike first in game one with two runs in the top of the first inning on a single by Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale High School, a sacrifice bunt by Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, a single by Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School, a Gulf Coast error, and a ground ball fielder's choice by Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School.

ECCC plated another run in the bottom of the third on singles by Ellis and Gibson and a ground ball fielder's choice by Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia.

ECCC freshman pitcher Lacey Hill didn't give up a hit until the bottom of the fourth, when the Lady Bulldogs picked up three hits including a grand slam home run by Alyssa Hardy that gave Gulf Coast a 4-3 lead.

The Lady Diamond Warriors threatened in the top of the seventh with a runner on second and only one out, but were unable to produce the tying run.

Hill, a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School, took the loss, giving up only three hits. ECCC had seven hits in game one.

The Lady Bulldogs would take an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning, with four hits off of the usually dominant ECCC freshman pitcher Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy.

Gulf Coast made those two runs count as they held on for the 2-0 win. Lady Bulldogs pitcher Paige Breal held ECCC to just one hit.

Thaggard took the loss for East Central, giving up nine hits over six innings.

ECCC was 42-11 prior to Wednesday's national tournament game.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR

RNAL

WEEK OF May 3, 2015

ECCC Lady Diamond Warriors finish runner-up in MACJC State Tournament

After playing 20 innings in two games on Saturday, the No. 11 East Central Community College Lady Diamond Warriors had a tall order ahead of them as they began play on Sunday, May 3, in the finals of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Softball Tournament.

They needed to beat No. 10 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College twice.

Gulf Coast, however, had other ideas in the first game, scoring three runs in the first inning and six more in the fifth to defeat ECCC 9-3 and win the MACJC State Softball Championship held at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville.

State runner-up East Central is now 40-10 overall. Gulf Coast's record is 41-10.

East Central had already punched its ticket to the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Tournament.

Facing an early 3-0 deficit on Sunday, the Lady Diamond Warriors clawed back into the game with two runs in the second inning on a double by Karoline Holsonback of South Lamar High School (Kennedy, Ala.) and a sacrifice fly by Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central High School. A sacrifice fly by Holsonback in the fourth tied the game at three.

From there on it was all Gulf Coast, winning by the final 9-3 margin despite only out-hitting ECCC 10-9.

Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School, Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale High School, and Anna Katherine Nowell of Leake Academy all had two hits for East Central. Freshman pitcher Lacey Hill of Kilbourne (La.) High

School took the loss, throwing four and a third innings and giving up seven runs on seven hits.

Hill threw 21 innings during the four-game weekend.

It took 20 innings over two games on Saturday and gutsy performances by ECCC's two freshman pitchers for the Lady Diamond Warriors to advance to Sunday.

After losing a heartbreaking 13-inning 4-2 contest to Gulf Coast at 3 p.m. Saturday, East Central was forced to immediately play Jones County.

Against Gulf Coast in the first game on Saturday, the Lady Diamond Warriors scored in the bottom of the second when Aldous walked and then scored on the throw after a double by Holsonback. Gulf Coast grabbed a 2-1 lead in the top of the fourth with two runs.

East Central would tie the score in dramatic fashion in the bottom of the seventh as Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point produced a one-out single, before Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights Academy in Senatobia delivered a two-out double to drive in Ellis and knot the game at 2-2.

Neither team was able to produce a run again until the

See ECCC page 8B

ECCC

Continued from page 2B

top of the 13th inning when Gulf Coast plated two runs to pull out the 4-2 win.

ECCC freshman pitcher Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy gave a heroic effort in the Saturday loss to Gulf Coast, throwing nine and two thirds innings and giving up only three hits and two runs, while striking out seven. Hill took the loss for the Lady Diamond Warriors after relieving Thaggard.

Hill pitched the final three and a third innings after having thrown a seven-inning 3-0 shutout win over Pearl River the previous day of the tournament.

Forced into the loser's bracket, the Lady Diamond Warriors hit the field again Saturday evening against Jones County.

Solo home runs by Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School in the first inning and Duke in the fifth was all East Central needed in the 2-1 win. Hill returned to the mound for East Central and threw another seven innings for the win.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____ 3A DEMOCRAT X

NEWTON COUNT _____ COUNTY TIMES _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____ WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____ CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 3, 2015

ECCC softball opens playoffs Thursday

The 11th ranked East Central Community College Lady Diamond Warriors will open National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Tournament play Thursday, May 7, against the No. 1 team in the nation, Louisiana State University-Eunice, at 4 p.m. at Community Bank Park in Ellisville.

Region 23 Tournament host and No. 2 ranked Jones County Junior College will meet No. 10 ranked Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in the other opening round game at 6 p.m. The champion of the double elimination tournament will be crowned on Saturday, May 9.

The top two teams from the regional will advance to the NJCAA Division II National Tournament May 13-16.

ECCC finishes as runner-up in MACJC State

Gulf Coast scored three runs in the first inning and six more in the fifth to defeat ECCC 9-3 and win the MACJC State Softball Championship held at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville.

Facing an early 3-0 deficit on Sunday, the Lady Diamond Warriors (40-10) clawed back into the game with two runs in the second inning on a double by Karoline Holsonback and a sacrifice fly by Katlyn Duke. A sacrifice fly by Holsonback in the fourth tied the game at three.

From there on it was all Gulf Coast, winning by the final 9-3 margin despite only out-hitting ECCC 10-9. Caitlyn Aldous, Mallory Turner and Anna Katherine Nowell all had two hits for East Central.

Freshman pitcher Lacey Hill took the loss, throwing four and a third innings and giving up seven runs on seven hits. Hill threw 21 innings during the four-game weekend.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 3, 2015

Thaggard is pitcher of week for second time

East Central Community College freshman pitcher Chloe Thaggard of Philadelphia has been named the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Softball Pitcher of the Week for the second time this season.

The former Leake Academy standout won the award for the week of April 20-26. She previously received the honor for March 23-29, when she also was selected as the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Pitcher of the Week.

Thaggard was dominant on the mound for East Central last week with two-hit and one-hit shutout victories in her two starts. She picked up a 9-0 five-inning win over Pearl River Community College on April 21, giving up only two hits and striking out nine while facing just 21 batters. Against Northeast Mississippi Community College on April 25, she tossed a one-hitter over seven innings for a 2-0 win, striking out 11 and facing only 25 batters.

Chloe Thaggard

She is 20-3 on the mound this season with a 1.48 ERA.

It is the fifth time this season that a Lady Diamond Warrior has received either the MACJC Pitcher of the Week or Player of the Week.

The 11th ranked ECCC Lady Diamond Warriors will meet the Pearl River Community College Lady Wildcats in the opening round of the MACJC State Tournament Friday, May 1, at 4 p.m. at Community Bank Park in Ellisville. East Central is 38-8 on the season.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 26, 2015

Diamond Warriors fall to No. one LSU Eunice Bangals

The East Central Community College Diamond Warriors came up on the short end of a 9-2 score in a non-conference baseball game April 24 against the No. 1 ranked Louisiana State University Eunice Bengals in Eunice, La.

With the loss, East Central falls to 24-15 overall.

The Warriors had a hard time getting the bats going against three LSU Eunice pitchers in the nine-inning contest, producing only six hits and striking out nine times. Hunter Thrower of Southeast Lauderdale High School was 2-3 at the plate, with a double and a single. Dylan Little of Mary G. Montgomery High School (Semmes, Ala.) and Ben Cooley of South Jones High School also doubled in the game.

Matthew Little of Lake High School took the loss in relief, giving up three hits and three runs in three innings of work. Six Warrior pitchers struck out eight Bengal batters.

East Central closed out the regular season Monday, April 27, with a doubleheader in Decatur against Jones County Junior College on Sophomore Appreciation Day. Warrior sophomores will be honored before the first game, which begins at 4 p.m.

The Warriors are 17-9 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges play and in position to claim a berth in the first round of the state tournament May 1-2.

No. 11 ranked Lady Warriors advance to state

East Central Community College freshman pitcher Chloe Thaggard gave up just one hit over seven innings as the Lady Diamond Warriors beat the Northeast Mississippi Community College Tigers 2-0 April 25 in Decatur.

The Lady Warriors now advance to the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Tournament next weekend.

East Central, ranked No. 11 nationally, beat Northeast 10-0 in five innings April 24 in the first game of the best two-out-of-three first-round playoff series. The Lady Diamond Warriors were the No. 2 seed from the MACJC South Division.

The Lady Diamond Warriors are now 38-8 overall. East Central will next be in action May 1-3 at the MACJC State Tournament. The location and pairings will be announced when all of the first-round playoff series are completed this weekend.

Thaggard, a product of Leake Academy, struck out 11 Tiger batters while throwing only 84 pitches. She walked one batter. Thaggard has been both the MACJC Pitcher of the Week and the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Pitcher of the Week this season.

Today's game was a pitchers' duel between Thaggard and Northeast's Alyssa Vanlandingham, who gave up only four hits to East Central batters.

The Lady Diamond Warriors got what would be the winning run in the top of the fourth inning on an RBI single by Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School. Anna Katherine Nowell of Leake Academy had a full-count, two-out double in the top of the sixth to drive home Aldous for the game's only other run.

The Lady Warriors won game 1 of the series 10-0 in five innings.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

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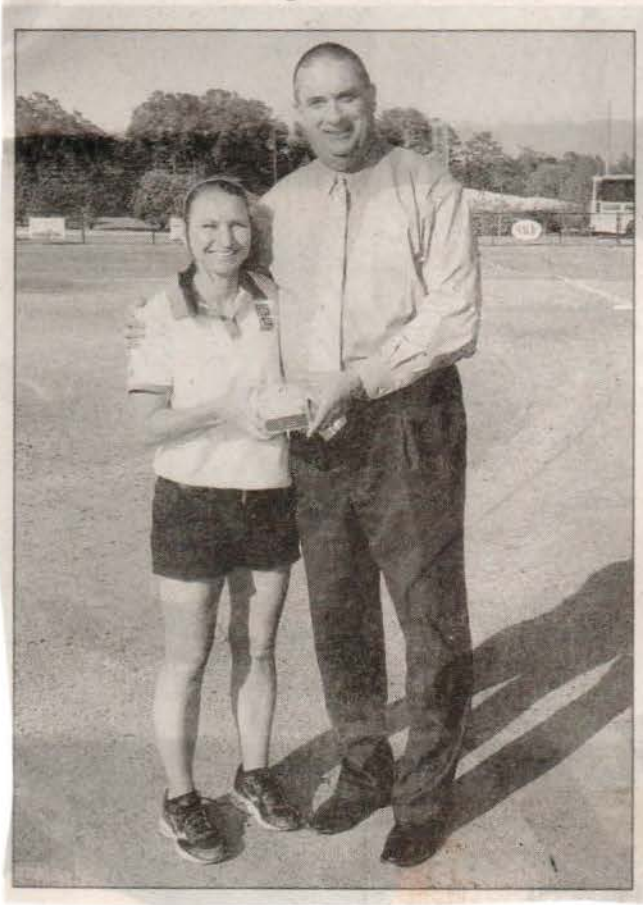
April 19, 2015

Pg. 2

Chaney notches 100th victory



From school reports

DECATUR — Third-year East Central Community College head softball coach Kristin Chaney notched her 100th career victory Tuesday when her Lady Warriors shut out Pearl River Community College 9-0 in the second game of a doubleheader on the Decatur campus.

Since taking over as East Central's coach in 2013, the Little Rock native and Newton County High School graduate's teams have compiled records of 31-17 in spring 2013, 33-16 in spring 2014, and are 36-8 in the spring 2015 campaign.

The Lady Warriors are currently ranked No. 11 in the nation as they enter Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges post-season play April 24-25 against Northeast Mississippi Community College in Decatur.

Chaney is a 2005 honor graduate of ECCC and an academic Hall of Fame selection. She is recognized as the college's only two-sport All-American (basketball/softball) and was selected a National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-American. Chaney finished second in the NJCAA Female Athlete of the Year competition.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff as assistant softball coach in 2009, Chaney attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where she received master's and bachelor's degrees in sports administration in 2008 and 2007, respectively. She was also a standout member of the Lady Eagle basketball and softball teams.

WEEK OF April 19, 2015

Photo courtesy of East Central Community College

Sophomore members of the No. 11-ranked East Central Community College softball team were recognized Tuesday on Sophomore Appreciation Day following the home finale in Decatur, a doubleheader sweep of Pearl River Community College. Coaches and sophomore players and their respective hometowns and high schools are, from left, assistant coach Courtney Nunn of Decatur; Anna Katherine Nowell of Philadelphia and Leake Academy; Karoline Holsonback of Kennedy, Ala., and South Lamar High School; former Lady Warrior player and current manager Skyler Simmons of Madison, Ala., and Bob Jones High School; Christen Benson of Brookhaven and Brookhaven High School; Mallory Turner of Collinsville and West Lauderdale High School; and head coach Kristin Chaney of Little Rock. The Lady Warriors currently are 36-8 overall heading into Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Tournament play. Inset below, Chaney (left) is honored by ECCC President Dr. Billy W. Stewart for achieving her 100th career softball victory Tuesday.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 19, 2019

Lady Warriors sweep Hinds to run win streak to six

By ECCC Sport Information

The East Central Community College Lady Warriors produced 16 runs on 24 hits to sweep the Hinds Community College Lady Eagles by identical 8-0 scores in softball doubleheader action on the Decatur campus April 15.

With the wins, East Central extended its winning streak to six games. The Lady Warriors are now 34-8 overall and 20-6 in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division.

The Lady Warriors also had strong pitching to back up the offensive output, giving up just six hits in the two shutout victories.

In Game 1, East Central scored three runs in the fourth, and two in both the fifth and sixth innings. The Lady Warriors pounded out 13 hits off Hinds pitchers. Andi Hannaford led the team with three hits, including a two-run double. Mahalia Gibson, Katlyn Duke, Karoline Holsonback and Maegen Ellis all had two hits in the opener. Mallory Turner had a two-run double.

Freshman pitcher Lacey Hill picked up the win, giving up three hits and striking out two in six innings.

East Central scored three runs in the bottom of the first and added five more in the fifth for the 8-0 Game 2 victory. Two-run doubles by Duke and Anna Katherine Nowell and an RBI single by Ellis accounted for the scoring in the fifth inning. Ellis hit a two-run home run over the center field fence in the first inning for the Lady Warriors. It was the fourth home run in the past six games for the most recent MACJC Player of the Week. In addition to Ellis, Caitlyn Aldous and Hannaford had two hits in the win.

Freshman Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy got the win, giving up three hits and striking out seven Lady Eagles in the five-inning contest.

APPEARED IN:

Newton Appeal ✓✓

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 19, 2015

ECCC softball ranked No. 13 in nation

Women's tennis team ranked No. 8 in region

By ECCC sports information

East Central Community College has moved up to No. 13 in the nation in the most recent National Junior College Athletic Association Marucci Division II Softball Poll.

The Lady Warriors, coached by Kristin Chaney, moved up from No. 15 last week. East Central is 32-8 overall and 20-6 in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division.

East Central closed out its regular season Tuesday, hosting Pearl River Community College on Sophomore Day.

East Central's women's tennis team also received recognition last week, with a No. 8 ranking in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Junior/Community Colleges Women's Region III Rankings. Shannon St. Claire, a product of Newton County High School and East Central's No. 1 Singles player, was ranked No. 6 in the ITA's Region III individual player rankings.

The Lady Warrior netters, under the direction of adjunct tennis coach Dianne O'Neill, finished sixth in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state and NJCAA Region 23 tournaments held April 16-18.

The East Central men's golf team is ranked No. 21 nationally among NJCAA Division II schools in the most recent Golfstat Relative Rankings. The Warriors, coached by Chris Clark, finished in fifth place in the MACJC State Championship April 18-19.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 12, 2015

East Central's Hill named MACJC Pitcher of the Week

For the second time this season, East Central Community College softball player Lacey Hill is the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Pitcher of the Week.

Hill

For the week of March 30-April 5, Hill, a freshman pitcher from Kilbourne High School in Kilbourne, La., allowed just two hits and had four strikeouts in a 9-0 Lady Warrior win over Meridian Community College on March 30. On April 1 against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, she allowed just three hits, one earned run, and struck out six Lady Bulldogs in a 9-1 victory.

Hill also earned the honor for the week of Feb. 16-22, when she also was named National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Pitcher of the Week.

ECCC sweeps Northeast on Alumni Day

East Central Community College plated 11 runs in the first four innings en route to a 13-3 Game 2 victory and a doubleheader sweep of Northeast Mississippi College Tigers on Spring Alumni Day April 11. The Warriors won the opener 7-2.

East Central totaled 23 hits and improved to 21-11, 14-6 – good enough for third place in the 15-team league.

T.J. Lockett drove in three runs in Game 2 with a double and a sacrifice fly. Michael Davis was 3-4 at the plate with two RBIs and Matt Mitchell was 2-4 with two RBIs. Cody Daigle was 2-2 and scored three runs. Chance Whitten and Reagan Warren both had RBI singles.

Peyton Owen recorded the win on the mound.

East Central pitchers struck out 14 Tiger batters in Game 1. Colby Eaves got the win, tossing three innings of shutout ball and striking out four. He gave up one hit. Matt Mitchell struck out 10 in five innings of relief work.

Ben Cooley of South Jones High School belted a two-run home run to pace the Warriors. Lockett and Lane Fazende both had RBI doubles in the contest. Dylan Snypes was 2-3 and Davis had an RBI on a sacrifice fly.

On April 8, East Central fought back for a 5-0 Game 2 to salvage a doubleheader split at Meridian Community College.

Meridian took the first game 8-3.

Lady Warriors get 2nd straight DH sweep

East Central Community College pounded out 23 hits and scored 18 runs in a doubleheader sweep of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 11-3 and 7-3, in Wesson April 11.

The Lady move to 32-8, 18-6, good for second place in the MACJC South Division.

In Game 1, East Central scored two runs in the top of the first, five in the third and three more in the fourth to jump out to a 10-0 lead. Maegen Ellis clubbed two home runs, including a solo shot in the first inning and a two-run blast in the fourth. Ellis, Caitlyn Aldous and Andi Hannaford combined for 10 hits and five RBIs. Ellis was 4-4 with three RBIs, Aldous was 4-4 with an RBI, and Hannaford was 2-2 with an RBI. Anna Katherine Nowell doubled in two runs, and Katlyn Duke doubled and had three RBIs.

Lacey Hill recorded the win for East Central, allowing three runs over six innings. She struck out three, walked two and gave up five hits.

The Lady Warriors [illegible] in every inning but the [illegible] and sixth to grind [illegible] Game 2 win. Aldous was [illegible] the plate with a double [illegible] two singles. She had [illegible] and also scored three [illegible] Duke, Nowell, and [illegible] Lavender added RBIs [illegible] nightcap.

Chloe Thaggard of [illegible] Academy picked up the [illegible] game two, allowing three [illegible] on six hits over seven [illegible]

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓✓✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 12, 2015

Lady Warriors tally second straight sweep

• Central girls enter week in fourth place

The East Central Community College Lady Warriors pounded out 23 hits and scored 18 runs in in a doubleheader sweep of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Lady Wolves, 11-3 and 7-3, in Wesson April 11.

The Lady Warriors are now 32-8 overall and 18-6 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges league play, good for sole possession of second place in the South Division.

In game one, East Central scored two runs in the top of the first, five in the third and three more in the fourth to jump out to a 10-0 lead.

Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, Miss., clubbed two home runs, including a solo shot in the first inning and a two-run blast in the fourth.

Ellis, Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School and Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights Academy in Senatobia combined for 10 hits and five RBIs.

Ellis was 4-4 with three RBIs, Aldous was 4-4 with an RBI, and Hannaford was 2-2 with an RBI.

Anna Katherine Nowell of Leake Academy doubled in two runs, and Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central High School doubled and had three RBIs.

Lacey Hill of Kilbourne (La.) High School recorded the win for East Central, allowing three runs over six innings. She struck out three, walked two and gave up five hits.

The Lady Warriors scored in every inning but the first and sixth to grind out the game two win.

Aldous was 3-4 at the plate with a double and two singles. She had one RBI and also scored three runs.

Duke, Nowell, and Summer Lavender of Canton Academy added RBIs in the nightcap.

Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy picked up the win in game two, allowing three runs on six hits over seven innings.

ECCC was scheudled to return home to the Decatur campus Tuesday, to take on Hinds.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 5, 2015

ECCC softball sweeps doubleheader

From school reports

SUMMIT — Strong pitching performances by freshmen Lacey Hill and Chloe Thaggard fueled East Central Community College's doubleheader sweep of Southwest Mississippi Community College Wednesday.

The 6-0 and 7-1 wins propelled the Lady Warriors into second place in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division standings.

The Lady Warriors are now 30-8 overall and 16-6 in South Division play.

Hill, a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School, pitched a complete game shutout in Game 1, giving up four hits and striking out seven Lady Bears. Earlier in the week, Hill was named MACJC Pitcher of the Week for March 30-April 5.

MORE INFORMATION

Former West Lauderdale player Mallory Turner had an RBI single in Game 1. Neshoba Central alumna Katlyn Due added two singles in four trips to the plate in the second game.

The Lady Warriors scored three runs in the top of the sixth to break open a close game in the opener. Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School had a two-run double in the sixth. Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point drove in two runs with a home run in the top of the fourth inning. Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale High School had an RBI single in the seventh. Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights Academy in Senatobia added two hits for East Central.

Thaggard, a product of Leake Academy, went the distance in the circle in Game 2, giving up just two hits and no earned runs while striking out four.

East Central used three-run fifth and seventh innings en route to the 7-1 win. Anna Katherine Nowell of Leake Academy hit a two-run home run in the seventh inning, her first of the season. She also singled in the game. Turner was 2-for-3 at the plate in the second game, with a single and a double, and Ellis was 2-for-3 with two singles. Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central High School added two singles in four trips to the plate and an RBI.

ECCC travels to Wesson Saturday for a doubleheader against Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Games are at noon and 2 p.m.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

Week of April 5, 2015

Appeared in:
Carthaginian
Clarion-Ledge
Meridian Star
Neshoba Demo
ton Appeal
County Times
of Morton
on County Journal
Publications

East Central's Thaggard named MACJC softball Pitcher of the Week

By ECCC Sports Information

East Central Community College freshman pitcher Chloe Thaggard of Philadelphia is the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Softball Pitcher of the Week.

Thaggard, a product of Leake Academy in Madden, was 2-0 for the week, including an 8-0 win over Pearl River Community College March 24 and a 4-1 victory over No. 1 ranked Jones County Junior College March 27.

Against Pearl River, she faced 23 batters and allowed just two hits and one walk while striking out nine. Against Jones County, Thaggard held the Lady Bobcats to just one uncarned run on six hits, while striking out seven batters.

On the year, Thaggard has a 15-2 overall record and a 1.72 earned run average.

ECCC is 29-7 overall and 15-5 in division play.

Week of April 5, 2015

E. Central splits doubleheader with Gulf Coast

By ECCC Sports Information

Powered by Katlyn Duke's grand slam and Mahalia Gibson's two home runs, the East Central Community College Lady Warriors took Game 1 of a softball doubleheader, 9-1, over the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lady Bulldogs April 1 on the Decatur campus.

Mississippi Gulf Coast won Game 2, 5-3.

With the doubleheader split, the Lady Warriors are now 28-8 overall and 14-5 in South Division league play.

Gibson went 3-3 at the plate in the first game, adding a double to her two round-trippers. She had two RBIs for the game and scored three of her team's nine runs.

Duke accounted for four RBIs with her grand slam. Mallory Turner and Caitlyn Aldous also drove in runs for the Lady Warriors.

Lacey Hill was solid in the circle for East Central, picking up the win. She surrendered just three hits and one earned run in six innings of work while striking out five Lady Bulldog batters.

In Game 2, Mississippi Gulf Coast plated four runs in the top of the sixth inning to grab the lead and the 5-3 victory over East Central. The Lady Warriors pulled out to a 3-1 lead with single runs in the bottom of the first, fourth, and fifth innings but could not hold on.

Chloe Thaggard took the loss for East Central, giving up five runs on six hits and five walks. She struck out eight.

The Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Softball Pitcher of the Week lost for just the third time this season against 15 wins.

Duke homered for East Central in Game 2, and Aldous went 2-3 with a double, single and one RBI.

Gibson and Karoline Holsonback also had singles.

Appeared in:

Carthaginian	✓✓✓	Newton Appeal	✓✓
Clarion-Ledger		Scott County Times	
Meridian Star		Spirit of Morton	
Neshoba Democrat	✓✓	Winston County Journal	
		Other Publications	

Week of March 29, 2015

ECCC softball splits with No. 1 Jones County JC

From school reports

The East Central Community College Lady Warriors swept a softball doubleheader from the Meridian Community College Lady Eagles Monday to improve their record to 29-7 overall and 15-5 in South Division league play.

The Lady Warriors did not allow a run in the two-game series, winning game one, 9-0, and Game 2, 6-0.

ECCC scored seven runs in the first three innings to put the opener away early. Lacey Hill picked up the win. She allowed only two hits and struck out four in four in 2 2/3 innings.

Summer Lavendar led the Lady Warriors offensively with four RBIs on a triple and home run. She scored three runs. Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale High School had a double and two RBIs, Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School and Karoline Holsonback of added singles. Anna Katherine Nowell of Leake Academy scored three runs for the Lady Warriors. Maegen Ellis added an RBI on a fielder's choice.

In game two, Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy went the distance in the circle for the win. She gave up five hits and struck out four while shutting out the Lady Eagles.

Ellis homered in the first inning to get the Lady Warriors started offensively, and finished with two hits and two RBIs. ECCC tallied 11 hits in the win, including three singles and an RBI from Nowell, three singles from Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School, and singles from Holsonback, Lavendar, and Christen Benson of Brookhaven High School.

ECCC hosts Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College today for a doubleheader starting at 3 p.m.

More Information

East Central CC did not allow a single run in the sweep, improving its record to 29-7 overall and 15-5 in conference play.

Appeared in:

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star ✓

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

WEEK OF March 29, 2015

Thaggard MACJC top hurler

East Central Community College freshman pitcher Chole Thaggard of Philadelphia is the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Softball Pitcher of the Week.

Thaggard, a product of Leake Academy in Madden, was 2-0 for the week, including an 8-0 win over Pearl River Community College March 24 and a 4-1 victory over No. 1 ranked Jones County Junior College Friday, March 27.

THAGGARD

Against Pearl River, she faced 23 batters and only allowed two hits and one walk while striking out nine.

Against Jones County, Thaggard held the Lady Bobcats to just one unearned run on six hits, while striking out seven batters.

On the year, Thaggard has a 15-2 overall record and a 1.72 earned run average.

The East Central Community College Lady Warriors are 29-7 overall and 15-5 in MACJC South Division play.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ____

SPIRIT OF MORTON ____

MERIDIAN STAR ____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES ____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ____

CLARION-LEDGER ____

WEEK OF March 22, 2015

ECCC softball splits with Hinds

From school reports

East Central's softball team split decisions with Hinds Community College Saturday in Raymond. After falling 4-1 in the opener, the Lady Warriors claimed a 15-1 win in the nightcap to improve their record to 22-6 overall and 8-4 in division play.

In Game 1, Maegen Ellis hit a home run in the third inning to put the Lady Warriors on top 1-0. However, it was not enough as Hinds scored twice in the fourth and sixth innings for the win.

Additional hitters for ECCC were Summer Lavender of Canton Academy, two singles; Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove and Christen Benson of Brookhaven, each with a double; and Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central and Karoline Holsonback of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., each with a single.

Lacey Hill, a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School, took the loss for East Central. She allowed four earned runs on six hits in six innings. She fanned five batters and walked one.

In the nightcap, Duke racked up four RBIs on three hits for East Central, including a home run in the fifth inning and two singles.

Additional hitters included Ellis, home run and double; Turner and Gibson, each with two singles; Aldous and Benson, each with a double; and Lavender and Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia, singles each.

In addition to Duke, RBIs were tallied by Ellis with three, Benson with two and Turner, Gibson, Aldous, Lavender and Mallory Lee of Quitman with one apiece.

Runs were scored by Duke, three; Aldous, two, Gibson, two; Ellis, two; Turner, two; and Holsonback, Benson and Lavender, one.

Chloe Thaggard picked up the win for the Lady Warriors. She allowed one earned run on six hits in seven innings of work. She fanned four batters and walked four. Thaggard is a product of Leake Academy.

ECCC hosts Jones County Junior College Friday. Doubleheader action begins at 3 and 5 p.m. on the Decatur campus.

The Lady Warriors travel to Meridian Community College Monday for games beginning at 3 and 5 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION

Former Quitman standout Mallory Lee had an RBI in Game 2.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 22, 2015

Warriors drop doubleheader to Hinds

From school reports

The East Central Community College Diamond Warriors fell 3-2 in 11 innings against No. 1-ranked Hinds Community College Wednesday in the first game of a doubleheader held at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex in Decatur. The Warriors also lost Game 2, 4-3.

After the visiting Eagles jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in game one, ECCC's Chance Whitten hit a solo home run in the bottom of the second inning and the Warriors scored again in the seventh to even the score. The Eagles scored the winning run in the top of the 11th off a solo homer by Marshall Boggs.

Whitten, a product South Panola High School, also had a double and an RBI to lead the Warrior offense.

MORE INFORMATION

Todd Hughes, a Clarkdale alumnus, scored a run in Game 2 for ECCC.

Other hitters were Michael Davis of Clinton, two singles; Cody Daigle of Parkview Baptist High School in Addis, La., double; and Dylan Little of Mary G. Montgomery in Mobile, Ala., and T.J. Lockett of Bibb County High School in Brent, Ala., each with a single.

Scoring runs were Davis and Whitten.

Lane Fazende, a product of Pearl River Central High School, took the loss for East Central. He allowed one earned run on three hits in three innings. He struck out five batters.

In Game 2, the Warriors rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh but it was not enough as they fell 4-3.

Davis had a single to give the Warriors their only hit in the game.

RBIs were credited to Matt Mitchell of Lake and Little.

Runs were scored by Whitten, Dylan Snypes of Wayne County High School and Todd Hughes of Clarkdale.

Will Myers of Leake Academy was the losing pitcher. He allowed two earned runs on six hits in four innings. He struck out five batters.

The Diamond Warriors, now 14-8 overall and 7-3 in division play, host Mississippi Delta Community College today at the Clark-Gay Baseball Complex. Doubleheader action begins at 2 p.m.

Lady Warriors sweep Pearl River in DH

From school reports

POPLARVILLE — The East Central Community College softball team swept Pearl River Community College during a doubleheader Wednesday to improve to 24-6 overall and 10-4 in division play.

In Game 1, Mallory Lee of Quitman scored Christen Benson of Brookhaven on an RBI in the eighth inning to give East Central a 1-0 victory over the host Lady Wildcats.

Lacey Hill of Kilbourne (La.) High School went the distance on the mound, allowing no runs on one hit through eight innings. She struck out nine batters and walked two.

MORE INFORMATION

West Lauderdale alumna Mallory Turner had two singles in Game 1 for ECCC. In Game 2, former Neshoba Central standout Katlyn Duke tallied a single.

Hitters for ECCC were Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale, two singles; Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia, Caitlyn Aldous of Petal and Karoline Holsonback of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., each with a single.

Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy pitched a shutout in game two to help the Warriors claim an 8-0 victory.

Thaggard allowed no runs on two hits in six innings. She fanned nine and walked one.

Aldous had a triple and single to lead the EC offense. She also tallied three RBIs and scored a run.

Additional hitters were Holsonback, two doubles; Hannaford, two singles; and Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central and Benson, each with a single.

In addition to Aldous, runs were scored by Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point with two and Turner, Gibson, Lee, Duke and Benson with one each.

The Lady Warriors play at 3 and 5 p.m. Monday in a doubleheader at Meridian Community College.

A

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 15, 2015

ECCC softball sweeps Co-Lin in doubleheader

From school reports

DECATUR — The East Central Community College Lady Warrior softball team defeated Copiah-Lincoln Community College 10-0, 2-1 in doubleheader action Wednesday.

East Central (21-5, 7-3) jumped out to an early lead in Game 1, scoring four runs in the first inning of the shutout.

Andi Hannaford of Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia went 3-3 at the plate to lead the Lady Warrior offense. She also had one RBI.

In addition to Hannaford, RBIs were credited to Duke with three, Gibson with two and Lavender with one.

ECCC players who scored runs included Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale and Mallory Lee of Quitman, who both scored one.

Lacey Hill, a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School, got the win. She allowed no runs on three hits in five innings. She also fanned six batters.

In the nightcap, East Central scored on a fielder's choice in the bottom of the fifth inning to claim the victory.

Chloe Thaggard of Leake Academy went the distance on the mound. She allowed one run on four hits in seven innings of work while stricking out eight and walking one.

Hitters included Karoline Holsonback of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., two singles; Aldous and Christen Benson of Brookhaven, each with a double; and Duke, single.

Turner recorded one RBI.

Runs were scored by Benson and Lee.

The Lady Warriors travel to Raymond Saturday to take on the Hinds Community College Lady Eagles in games beginning at 1 and 3 p.m.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 8, 2012

ECCC sweeps MCC in doubleheader

DECATUR - East Central Community College's softball squad got the sweep over south division rival Meridian Community College in doubleheader action on March 3.

With the wins, the Lady Warriors improve to 14-4 overall and 2-2 in division competition.

EC's Lacey Hill threw a no-hitter in game one to claim an 8-0 shutout against the Lady Eagles. She also fanned eight batters and walked three.

Mahalia Gibson was the offensive leader for the Lady Warriors as she racked up four RBIs on two hits. Gibson singled in the first and had a home run in the fourth,

Other hitters included Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central, triple.

In the second game, ECCC rallied for one run in the fifth inning to grab a 3-2 victory over the Lady Eagles.

Leake Academy product Chloe Thaggard was the winning pitcher. She allowed two earned runs on six hits in seven innings. She struck out 10 batters and walked two.

Duke hit a single.

ECCC was to host Southwest Mississippi Community College Monday, Mar. 9.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓✓✓✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 1, 2015

East Central CC drops 2 to Jones Co.

From school reports

East Central Community College's fast-pitch softball squad dropped a pair of decisions to Jones County Junior College last Fridayon the Ellisville campus.

The Lady Diamond Warriors were blanked 10-0 in the opener and fell 8-4 in the second contest of the MACJC South Division doubleheader.

Following the setback, EC's record stands at 12-4 overall and 0-2 in league action. The Lady Bobcats are 2-0 in the division and 12-0 overall.

In the first game, the Lady Warriors could only muster two hits against JCJC in a five-inning shutout. Karoline Holsonback and Summer Lavender each had a single. Holsonback is a product of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., and Lavender hails from Canton Academy.

Lacey Hill took the loss. She went four innings and allowed seven earned runs on 11 hits. She also fanned two batters and walked two. Hill is a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School.

In the second game, Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove had a home run, a single and racked up two RBIs to lead the Lady Warrior offense.

Other hitters included Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, Caitlyn Aldous of Petal, Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central, and Holsonback, each with a single. Duke also had an RBI.

Chloe Thaggard took the loss. She went six innings and allowed eight earned runs on nine hits. She struck out two batters and walked four. Thaggard is a product of Leake Academy.

The Lady Diamond Warriors battle Meridian Community College Tuesday, March 3. Game times are 3 and 5 p.m. on the Decatur campus.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Feb 15 - 21

ECCC softball squad sweeps Marion Military

From school reports

East Central Community College's fast-pitch softball squad swept Marion Military in double-header action Thursday, Feb. 12 on the Decatur campus.

The Lady Diamond Warriors took an early lead in game one to capture a 16-5 victory over the Lady Tigers and completed the sweep with an 8-0 shutout.

In game one, Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School went 4-4, including two doubles, to lead the Lady Warrior offense. She also scored two runs and had three RBIs.

Other hitters were Caitlyn Aldous of Petal, Mallory Lee of Quitman and Maegen Ellis, a product of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, each with a double and single; Karoline Holsonback, a product of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., double; Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale and Christen Benson of Brookhaven, two singles each; and Rachel Davis of Petal, single.

In addition to Gibson, runs were scored by Turner (3), Aldous (2), Lavender (2), Benson (2), Hannaford, Lee, Duke, Holsonback and Ellis.

Lacey Hill was the winning pitcher. She went three innings and allowed one earned runs on three hits. She also fanned two batters and walked one. Hill is a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School.

In the second game, Ellis had a double and two singles and Nowell had three singles to lead the ECCC offense. Ellis led in RBIs with three.

Other hitters were Gibson, double and single; Turner, two singles; and Aldous, Hannaford and Benson, each with a single.

Runs were scored by Turner (3), Gibson, Aldous, Benson, Nowell and Ellis.

Leake Academy product Chloe Thaggard got the win. She allowed no runs on three hits in five innings. She struck out six batters and walked one.

EC's softball program is led by head coach Kristin Chaney and assistant Courtney Nunn.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF _____

ECCC takes two from Alabama Southern

From staff reports

East Central Community College's Lady Diamond Warriors jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning and exploded for seven runs in the second to defeat Alabama Southern Community College 9-0 in Game 1 of a doubleheader Tuesday.

ECCC completed the sweep by defeating the Lady Eagles 7-2 in the second game.

ECCC now holds an 8-2 overall record.

Caitlyn Aldous was the offensive leader for the Lady Warriors in game one. She had a double and single and three RBI.

Other hitters were Anna Katherine Nowell of Leake Academy, who doubled and singled; Andi Hannaford, a product of Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia, and Karoline Holsonback of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., each with a double; and Maegen Ellis of Oak Hill Academy in West Point, and Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove, each with a single.

In addition to Aldous, RBIs were collected by Ellis, Gibson, Hannaford, Holsonback and Nowell. Scoring runs were Mallory Turner of West Lauderdale with two, Ellis, Gibson, Aldous, Hannaford, Nowell, Christen Benson of Brookhaven and Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central.

In Game 2, Gibson was just a home run away from hitting for the cycle. She also tallied three RBI.

Additional hitters were Lavender, double and two singles; Nowell and Turner, each with a double; and Aldous, single.

Also recording RBIs were Nowell with two and Turner.

Runs were scored by Lavender with three, Gibson with two, Turner and Aldous.

ECCC will face Marion Military Institute at 1 p.m. Friday in Marion, Ala.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Feb. 5, 2015

EMCC sweeps ECCC in softball opener

From school reports

SCOOBA — The East Mississippi Community College softball team successfully opened its 2015 season with a home doubleheader sweep over rival East Central Community College, 12-4 and 7-6, Tuesday afternoon at the EMCC Softball Field.

In Game 1, the Lady Lions overcame an early 3-0 deficit with four runs of their own in the bottom of the third. The big hit in the inning was a two-out, bases-clearing double by Miranda Crenshaw following an infield error that prolonged the frame. The Neshoba Central High School product added another RBI with a bases-loaded walk in the sixth.

With starting pitcher Logan Smith and winning pitcher Chandler Ellis both throwing three innings apiece, EMCC extended the margin with four more runs in both the fifth and sixth innings. Marissa Landrum's first of two triples on the day drove home two runs in the fifth. Clarkdale High School's Molly McLeod and Pepper Baker later added run-scoring singles to make it 8-4.

An inning later, EMCC's first seven batters all reached base safely with McLeod's RBI double into the right-center field gap providing the final margin and ending the contest an inning early due to the eight-run mercy rule.

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

East Mississippi Community College's Kristen Mitchell slides by East Central Community College's Maegen Ellis to reach second base safely Tuesday afternoon in Scooba.

Heather Abney went 3-for-4 with three runs scored to lead the Lady Lions' 11-hit effort in the opener. Landrum was 2-for-4 with three runs batted in as well as three runs scored. The D'Iberville native had two more hits in the nightcap to finish the afternoon 4-for-7 at the plate, including the pair of triples, with four RBIs and five runs scored.

East Central was limited to just two hits in the first game. Starting pitcher Chloe Thaggard took the loss for the Lady Warriors.

The Lady Lions jumped out early in the nightcap, scoring three times in the first frame and twice in the second to take a 5-0 lead. The hitting star of the second game, sophomore Anna McCrary knocked in three of EMCC's first five runs with a first-inning double and a two-run single in the second to set the stage for her game-winning hit later in the contest.

The visitors chipped away at the deficit by plating a solo run in the third inning and two more in the fifth off starting pitcher Valiree Blair to close the gap to 5-3.

After EMCC got one of the runs back in the fifth when Emily Patrick plated Landrum, the Lady Warriors rallied in the top of the seventh with back-to-back doubles by Andi Hannaford and Christen Benson that followed an inning-opening infield error by the Lady Lions. Anna Katherine Nowell then knotted the score at 6-6 with an RBI single off EMCC reliever Jenny Reynolds.

The nightcap didn't stay deadlocked long, however, as former New Hope High School standout Kasey Stanfield set the table in the bottom half of the seventh with a one-out opposite-field double. That's when McCrary, a former New Hope teammate, capped a 3-for-4 outing by smashing a liner to left field off ECCC starter Lacey Hill that scored Stanfield for the winning tally. McCrary and Landrum combined for five of EMCC's eight hits in game two.

The Lady Warriors, now 4-2 on the year, outhit East Mississippi in the nightcap, 13-8, with Maegan Ellis leading the way with a 3-for-5 outing, including a pair of doubles.

Coach Kyndall White's 2-0 EMCC Lady Lions will participate in the Wildcat Invitational Friday afternoon in Poplarville by taking on the host Pearl River Lady Wildcats at 1 p.m. and then meeting preseason second-ranked LSU Eunice at 3 p.m.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

Davis to play two sports at ECCC

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Story Image (1) Print Font Size

Special to The Star

Latesia Davis signs with ECCC

Latesia Davis, center front, signs Wednesday morning to play softball and basketball at East Central Community College. The Newton County High School senior is joined by her parents, front row, from left, Orbene and Tonya Davis, and Newton County softball coach Justin Chaney.

Posted: Thursday, February 12, 2015 5:00 am

By Drew Kerekes dkerekes@themeridianstar.com

DECATUR — Tonya Davis won't have to go too far from home to watch her daughter continue her softball and basketball careers.

The mother of Newton County High School senior second baseman and post player Latesia Davis watched with pride as her daughter signed to play both sports at East Central Community College Wednesday morning.

"It's good for us," Tonya Davis said. "We can get out there to the games, because it's only five minutes away from our home."

Latesia Davis, who is currently finishing out her senior season in basketball before turning her focus to fast-pitch softball this spring, said the convenience of a short distance from home was a major plus in earning a scholarship with ECCC.

"It's very important," Latesia said.

Her softball coach, Justin Chaney, said ECCC would be getting a "phenomenal athlete" in the fall.

"You can tell on the basketball court and softball field (how good she is)," Chaney said. "To be able to start here for five straight years, that's a credit to her."

Wednesday wasn't a total surprise for Tonya Davis, who said she could tell early on the potential was there for Latesia to play beyond high school.

"We started her out early in softball and basketball — she played little league in both sports," Tonya Davis explained. "We just kept pushing her and pushing her, and I could see that she could possibly go somewhere in the future."

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

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pg. 2

WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

EC Lady Warriors young, talented

Lots of new faces will take the field for East Central Community College during the 2015 fastpitch softball campaign, but head coach Kristin Chaney, who begins her third season leading the Lady Diamond Warriors, is confident the team will be successful.

"This year's team will be very young, but very talented," Chaney said. "I expect us to compete in every game and give ourselves a shot to win."

The Lady Warriors were set to begin the new season Wednesday, Feb. 4, against Alabama Southern College with doubleheader action in Alabama.

The home opener is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 against Holmes Community College. Special activities are planned including a Drawdown Fundraiser.

Tickets for the Drawdown are available from any Lady Warrior player or coach. Winners will be drawn on game day and those purchasing a ticket will receive a free hamburger and drink.

One of the team goals is to qualify to host a first round playoff game. In order to do that, the Lady Warriors have to finish in the top two slots in division play.

"This group of young ladies is very competitive. They are a very close-knit group and are hungry for championships. We expect this team to represent EC softball and uphold the tradition for which the Lady Warriors are known."

Only four sophomores return from the 2014 team, which dropped a best-of-three series with Itawamba Community College during first-round playoffs and completed the season with a 33-16 overall record.

Mallory Turner, who played left field during her freshman season, will shift to third base and continue to be the leadoff hitter this season. She is a product of West Lauderdale.

Former right fielder Anna Katherine Nowell will take over duties at first base and Karoline Holsonback will handle the majority of time at catcher. Nowell was an All-State and All-District player at Leake Academy.

Christen Benson will see playing time in the outfield.

Freshmen and their respective high schools include pitchers Hannah Hassell, a product of Lamar County High School in Vernon, Ala., Lacey Hill, Killboourne, La., and Chloe Thaggard, Leake Academy; catchers Andi Hannaford, a product of Magnolia Heights School, and Cayla Myers, Magee; infielders Rachel Davis, Petal; Maegen Ellis, Oak Hill Academy; Mahalia Gibson, Oak Grove High School; and Mallory Lee, Quitman; and outfielders Caitlyn Aldous, Petal; Katlyn Duke, Neshoba Central; and Summer Lavender, Canton Academy.

Chaney said freshmen members of the team are expected to play a key role this season.

"Each one of these young ladies will contribute to our success," Chaney said. "Ellis, Gibson and Lee will hold down the middle. All four of our pitchers will be freshmen, but each is talented enough to carry that role. Thaggard and Hill will handle most of the pitching duties. We will have three freshmen in the outfield as well."

Thaggard was selected Most Valuable Player, Team Captain and All-Star.

Student managers are Justin Moore and John Davis, both of Leake Academy; Abigail McCool of Winston Academy; and Skyler Simmons, Bob Jones High School (Ala.)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

The Carthaginian

East Central Lady Warriors softball team

Membes of the East Central Community College fast-pitch softball team for the 2015 campaign are, from left, front, infielder/pitcher Mahalia Gibson (1), Oak Grove High School; pitcher Hannah Hassel (2), a product of Lamar County High School in Vernon, Ala.; utility player Caitlyn Aldous (3), Petal; outfielder Summer Lavender (6), Canton Academy; infielder Cayla Myers (7), Magee; pitcher Lacey Hill (9), a product of Kilbourney High School in Kilbourne, La.; infielder Mallory Lee (10), Quitman; and utility player Mallory Turner, West Lauderdale; second row, infielders Rachel Davis (13), Petal, and Andi Hannaford (14), a product of Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia; outfielder Christen Benson (20), Brookhaven; utility players Anna Katherine Nowell (21), Leake Academy, and Katlyn Duke (22), Neshoba Central; and infielders Karoline Holsonback (24), a product of South Lamar High School in Kennedy, Ala., and Maegen Ellis, Oak Hill Academy in West Point; and, back row, assistant coach Courtney Nunn, managers Abigail McCool, Winston Academy, Justin Moore and John Davis, both of Leake Academy, and Skylar Simmons, Bob Jones High School in Madison, Ala., and head coach Kristin Chaney. (EC Photo)

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

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Nanih Waiya's Sheets signs with East Central

WEEK OF Jan. 29

By Austin Bishop
Winston County Journal

While she had other opportunities, it really wasn't much of a surprise when Nanih Waiya softball standout Brantlie Sheets decided to sign with East Central Community College.

"I've always just felt East Central was where I needed to be," Sheets said. "I a lot of my friends are going there and I know a lot of the softball girls. It's a good environment and I've just heard a lot of good things about it."

Sheets made it official at a signing celebration in the Nanih Waiya High School Library last Thursday afternoon as she was surrounded by family and friends.

Sheets is one of two seniors on the team, along with University of Central Arkansas signee Ryan Holdiness — both of whom have signed college scholarships.

"It makes you feel good," said NW head coach Ron Swart. "We will probably have a few more next year who are going to sign. We have a really nice thing right now, and pitching is the key."

And that's where Sheets fits in to the plan. She has been pitching since she was 12-years-old and has developed into a strong weapon on the mound.

"The biggest strength that the has is that she is willing to work," Swart said. "She will compete. She has turned into a real good pitcher for us and has really been a blessing."

While she may see some action at first base for East Central, Sheets said the coaching staff said her primary role wold be in the circle.

"I'm excited about the higher level of competition," she said of the move to junior college softball. "I don't really know what to expect."

But before that can happen, she and her fellow Lady Warriors have a spring fastpitch softball season to take care of at Nanih Waiya.

"It is important to me (for the team to have a good year), because it is my last year and I'm really excited," Sheets said. "Hopefully we can win another State Championship."

(Right) Front: Tony Sheets (Dad), Brantlee Sheets, Tracy Holder (Mom), Van Holder (Stepdad) Back: Ron Swart, Blake Sheets (Brother)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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WEEK OF Jan. 22, 2015

CHRIS ALLEN BAKER

GREEN SIGNS WITH ECCC

Baylee Green, a senior at Sebastopol High School, seated center, signed a national letter of intent on Wednesday, January 21, to play softball for East Central Community College. Joining her in the occasion was her father, Brad Green, seated left, and her mother, Kitty Ladner, right. Back: Amanda Busby, Coaches Wayne Wilson and Emily Thrash and Principal Lorie Lundy.

CHRIS ALLEN BAKER

WINSTEAD SIGNS WITH ECCC

Abby Winstead, a senior at Sebastopol High School, seated center, signed a national letter of intent on Wednesday, January 21, to play softball for East Central Community College. Joining her in the occasion was her father, Larry WInstead, seated left, and her mother, Sam Winstead, right. Back: Amanda Busby, Coaches Wayne Wilson and Emily Thrash and Principal Lorie Lundy.

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WEEK OF 11/15/15

APPEARED IN:
CARTHAGINIAN
NEWTON COUNTY TIMES
SPIRIT OF MORTON COUNTY JOURNAL
MERIDIAN STAR EDGER

SOFTBALL

Three Lady Warrior softball players sign with D-I programs

By ECCC sports information

Three East Central Community College softball standouts signed National Letters of Intent on Nov. 11 to continue their careers at NCAA Division I universities next fall.

Caitlyn Aldous, a sophomore outfielder from Petal High School, signed to play for the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles.

Mahalia Gibson, a sophomore first baseman from Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, signed to play for the Southeastern Louisiana University Lady Lions in Hammond, La.

Sophomore pitcher Lacey Hill, a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School, also signed to play for Southeastern Louisiana University next year.

All three Lady Warrior softball players were part of the record-setting East Central Community College softball team that advanced to the championship game of the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship. The second-place finish in the nation is the highest-ever for the Decatur college's softball program. The Lady Warriors ended their season with a 48-14 record and also finished second in the South Division of Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges league play, second in the MACJC State Tournament, and runner-up in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament.

Aldous hit .326 for East Central last season, including second on the team in hits with 62 and tied for second in doubles with 13. She struck out just four times in 190 plate appearances.

Gibson batted .406 during the 2015 season with 80 hits, including 24 doubles and 52 RBIs, all team bests.

East Central Community College softball players (from left) Lacey Hill of Kilbourne (La.) High School, Mahalia Gibson of Oak Grove High School, and Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School, signed National Letters of Intent Nov. 11 to play at NCAA Division I programs next fall. Hill and Gibson signed with Southeastern Louisiana University and Aldous signed with the University of Southern Mississippi.

EC Photo

WEEK OF Nov. 8, 2015

Three ECCC Softball Standouts Headed to Next Level

By: ECCC Media Relations
Posted: Thu 3:52 PM, Nov 12, 2015

Three East Central Community College softball standouts signed National Letters of Intent on Nov. 11 to continue their careers at NCAA Division I universities next fall.

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Gibson batted .406 during the 2015 season with 80 hits, including 24 doubles and 52 RBIs, all team bests. She tied for the team lead in home runs with 11. She was named NJCAA Division II Softball First Team All-American, NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team, NJCAA All-Region 23 Team, and MACJC First Team All-State.

Hill was 25-9 on the mound for the Lady Warriors, with a 2.4 earned run average and 172 strikeouts in 215 innings pitched. She was named to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team and NJCAA All-Region 23 Team following the 2015 season.

East Central softball is led by Head Coach Kristin Chaney and Assistant Coach Courtney Nunn

APPEARED IN:

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MERIDIAN STAR _____
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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____
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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WTOK X

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of June 21, 2015

These students were recipients of various technical program awards. Students and their respective awards include, from left, (front) Christopher Warren of Philadelphia, collision repair technology award; Stephen Armstrong of Decatur, automotive technology award; Leah Corhern of Decatur and Tania Marie Rhodes of Conehatta, co-recipients, early childhood education technology award; and William Milner of Lena, electrical technology award; (back) Asif Zaffar of Philadelphia and Chad Simoneau of Louin, co-recipients, heating and air conditioning technology award; Sarah Tatum of Union, culinary arts technology award; Joseph McBeth of Carthage, hotel and restaurant management technology award; Mark Hale of Little Rock, network support technology award; and Timothy Laird of Newton, Technical Student of the Year. Not pictured is James Travassos of Lawrence, manufacturing and machining technology award.

Carthaginian ____

Clarion-Ledger ____

Meridian Star ____

Neshoba Democrat ____

Newton Appeal ✓

Scott County Times ____

Spirit of Morton ____

Winston County Journal ____

Other Publications ____

WEEK OF June 14, 2015

EDUCATION

ECCC Graduates Record Class, Realizes 62% Increase in Pre-Baccalaureate Degree Completions - Kicks967.com - Central Mississippi News 24/7

Shared by
ECCC

kicks967.com - Initiatives implemented as part of East Central Community College's 2020 Vision strategic planning process have resulted in the largest graduating class in the two-year college's history and dramat...

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CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

Other publications X
(What's New in Technology Today)

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

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WEEK OF June 14, 2015

Awards

Receive ECCC Faculty Memorial Awards

These students were among those receiving Faculty Memorial awards during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Students and their respective awards include (front row, from left) Ben Pace of Philadelphia, Aaron R. Davis Memorial Scholarship; Pashien Simone Kelly-Johnson of Gulfport, Frank Edwin & Nena Holt Leatherwood Biology Science Award; Sam Mitchell of Decatur, Dr. Shelby L. Harris Memorial Scholarship; Bryan Burton of Louisville, J. Wallace Bedwell Business Award; Brooke Payne of Union, Frank M. Cross Freshman Chemistry Award; Devin Skinner of Philadelphia, J. Andy Miller Freshman Engineering Award; and Timothy Laird of Newton, O.L. Newell Drafting Award; and (back row, from left) Tracy Gray of Lake, Charles E. Pennington Business Technology Award; Tallie Johnston of Lake, Robert G. Fick Memorial Scholarship; Emily Cook of Carthage, Ruth Hull Memorial Wo-He-Lo Award; Will Myers of Philadelphia and Chance Whitten of Batesville, co-recipients, Jamie Clark Memorial Baseball Award; Kaylee Yates of Decatur, Leon Eubanks Kaijyc-Peers Leadership Award; Louise Berryhill of Union, L.B. Simmons History Award; John Hedrick of Newton, Thomas W. Thrash Memorial Scholarship; and Christy Bryan of Philadelphia, General William Patrick Wilson Academic Scholarship. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF June 28, 2015

Former EC students earn highest GPA among transfers at 4-year institutions

For the second straight year, students who transferred from East Central Community College to four-year institutions earned the highest cumulative grade point average (GPA) of all community college transfers in the state of Mississippi.

Students who transferred from East Central to one of the state's eight public, four-year institutions earned a 3.22 GPA, according to data released from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). Students from the community/junior college with the second highest GPA earned a 3.21. The average for all 15 community colleges combined was a 3.13 GPA.

The report also again showed that community college transfer students performed academically as well or better in university courses than students who began their education at the senior institutions. The "native" students earned a 3.10 GPA.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart said that he was extremely proud of the former students and for the role East Central Community College faculty and staff played in preparing the students to transfer to the four-year university level.

"This data, compiled and reported by the IHL, affirms the results of our college's dedication to Student Success and Teaching and Learning, two hallmark commitments of our strategic plan for the future, 2020 Vision," Stewart said. "When we adopted this plan in February 2013, these are the results we anticipated. Our faculty and staff are to be commended for preparing East Central transfer students well for the academic challenges of a university. Based on the performance of our transfer students, no one does that better in the state of Mississippi than East Central Community College."

For more information about attending East Central Community College, contact ECCC Student Services at 601-635-6205 or e-mail rlee@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF June 28, 2015

Journal www.winstoncountyjournal.com

Jones receives scholarship

Jones Receives Boswell Memorial Scholarship

Michael Jones (left), a graduate of Nanih Waiya High School, is the recipient of the Ernest Harrison Boswell Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF June 23, 2015

Miriam Rivers (left), a graduate of Newton High School, is the recipient of the Stella Weathersby Newsome Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony.

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WEEK OF June 28, 2015

John Hedrick (right), a graduate of Newton County Academy, is the recipient of the Thomas W. Thrash Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with donor representative Jeanette Thrash, alumni association president, during the annua ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huf Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memoria Cafeteria following the awards ceremony.

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WEEK OF June 28, 2015

Breona Moore (left), a graduate of Union High School, is the recipient of the Wallace Strickland Rush Health Systems Endowed Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative Justin Palmer during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

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WEEK OF June 28, 2015

2 students earn national honors

Two Leake County students were among East Central Community College workforce education students to receive awards at the 51st annual SkillsUSA National Skill and Leadership Conference n Louisville, Ky.

Blake Faulkner of Carthage finished fifth in the nation in carpentry, and William Milner of Lena finished 16th in electrical construction wiring.

Other ECCC honorees included Jay Riser of Forest, seventh in cabinet making; Asif Zaffar of Philadelphia, 11th in sheet metal; and Chad Simoneau of Louin, 12th in plumbing,

More than 6,000 students participated in 100 hands-on skill and leadership competitions during the two-day event.

The East Central students advanced to the national competition after finishing in first place in their categories at the Mississippi SkillsUSA State Competition in Jackson this spring.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working toward a skilled workforce.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the showcase for the best career and technical students in the nation.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

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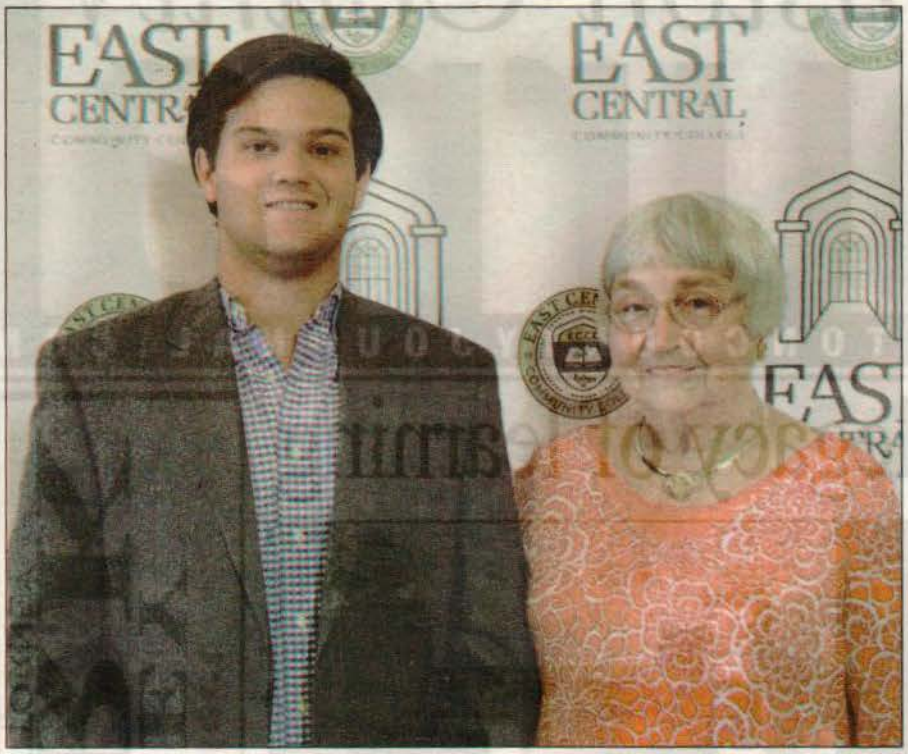
WEEK OF June 2015

ECCC Scholarship



Boydstun Receives ECCC Alumni Association Scholarship

David Boydstun, Jr. (left), a graduate of Winston Academy, is the recipient of the Alumni Association Lifetime Membership Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with donor representative Jeannette Thrash, Alumni Association president, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF June 18, 2015

Womble gets scholarship

Womble Receives Hudspeth Scholarship

Steven Womble (left), a graduate of Winston Academy, is the recipient of the Hudspeth Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF June 22 2015

Mayes Scholarship

Doster Receives Mayes Memorial Scholarship

Hallie Doster (right), a graduate of Noxapater High School, is the recipient of the Thomas Rudolph Mayes Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative Jackie Etie during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

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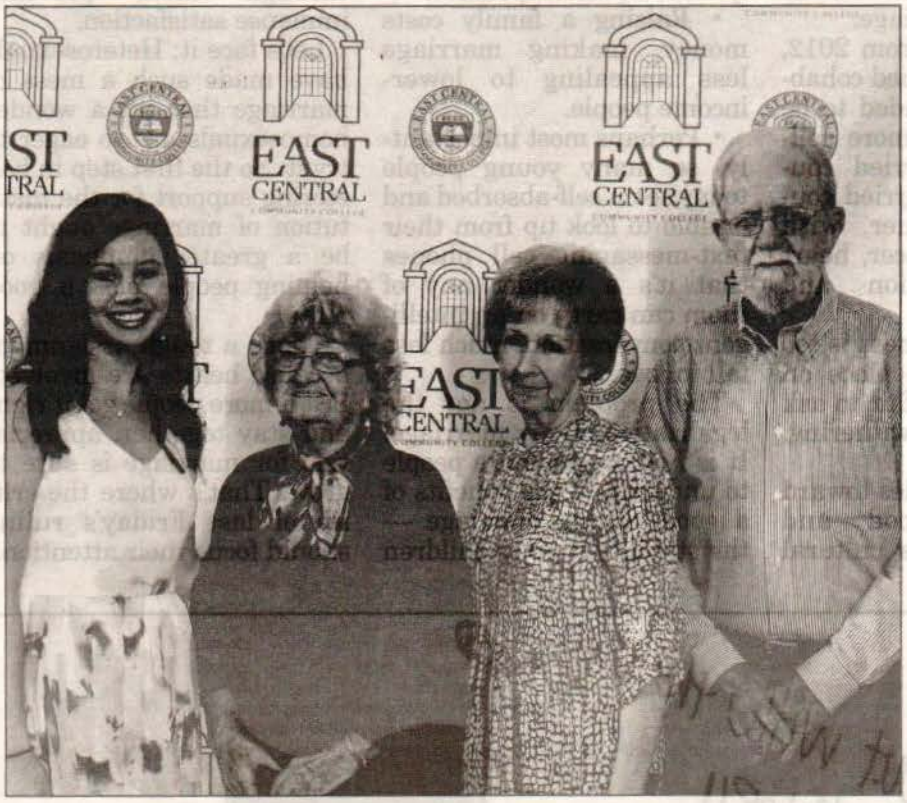
WEEK OF June 28, 2015

Nursing scholarship



Covington Receives Humphries Nursing Scholarship

Kayla Covington (left), a graduate of Nanih Waiya High School, is the recipient of the Kelley Humphries Nursing Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representatives (from left) Alta Kate Humphries and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Elliot during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF June 22, 2015

Supervisors scholarship winners

Receive Mississippi Association of Supervisors Scholarships

Winston County residents (from left) Brantlie Sheets of Nanih Waiya, Colby Jones of Noxapater and Kiaa Haynes of Grace Christian School are the recipients of Mississippi Association of Supervisors Community College Scholarships at East Central Community College in Decatur. They are pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF June 28, 2015

McCool receives

McCool Receives Wilks-Palmer Scholarship

Katie McCool (left), a graduate of Winston Academy, is the recipient of the Wilks-Palmer Scholars Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF June 22, 2015

Welding scholarship

Morris Receives Taylor Advanced Welding Scholarship

Maggie Morris (left), a homeschooled graduate from Louisville, is the recipient of the Taylor Advanced Welding Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative Joe Cowart during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

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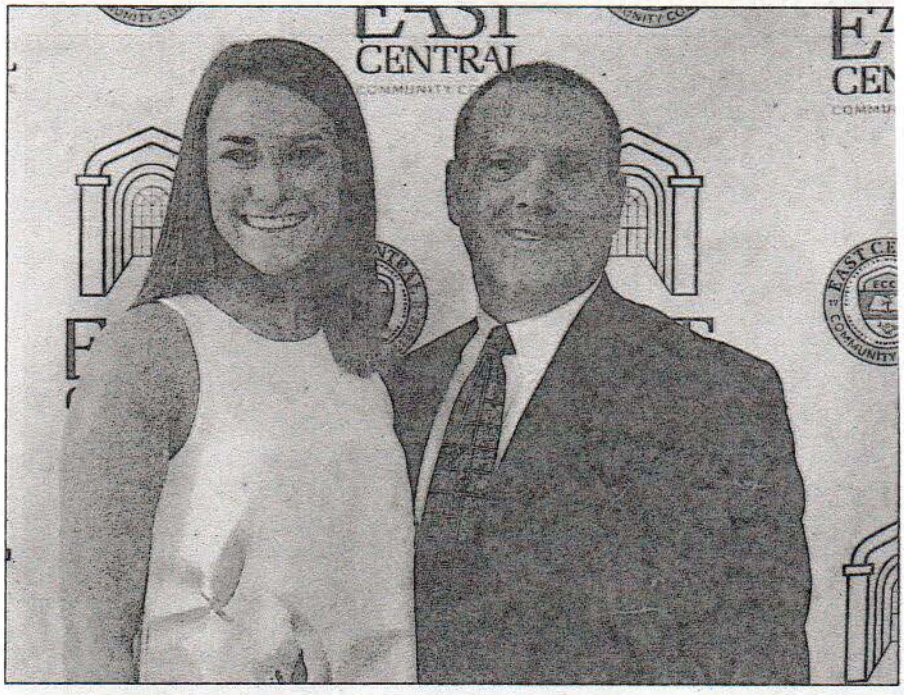
WEEK OF June 28, 2015

Smith receives



Smith Receives Williamson-Chisolm Memorial Scholarship

Stephanie Smith (left), a graduate of Nanih Waiya High School, is the recipient of the Jones and Carrie Williamson & Bascom and Hattie Chisolm Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF June 28, 2015

Health scholarship

Smith Receives Harrison Rush Health Scholarship

Chelsea Smith (left), a graduate of Nanih Waiya High School, is the recipient of the Dan Harrison Rush Health Systems Endowed Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representative Justin Palmer during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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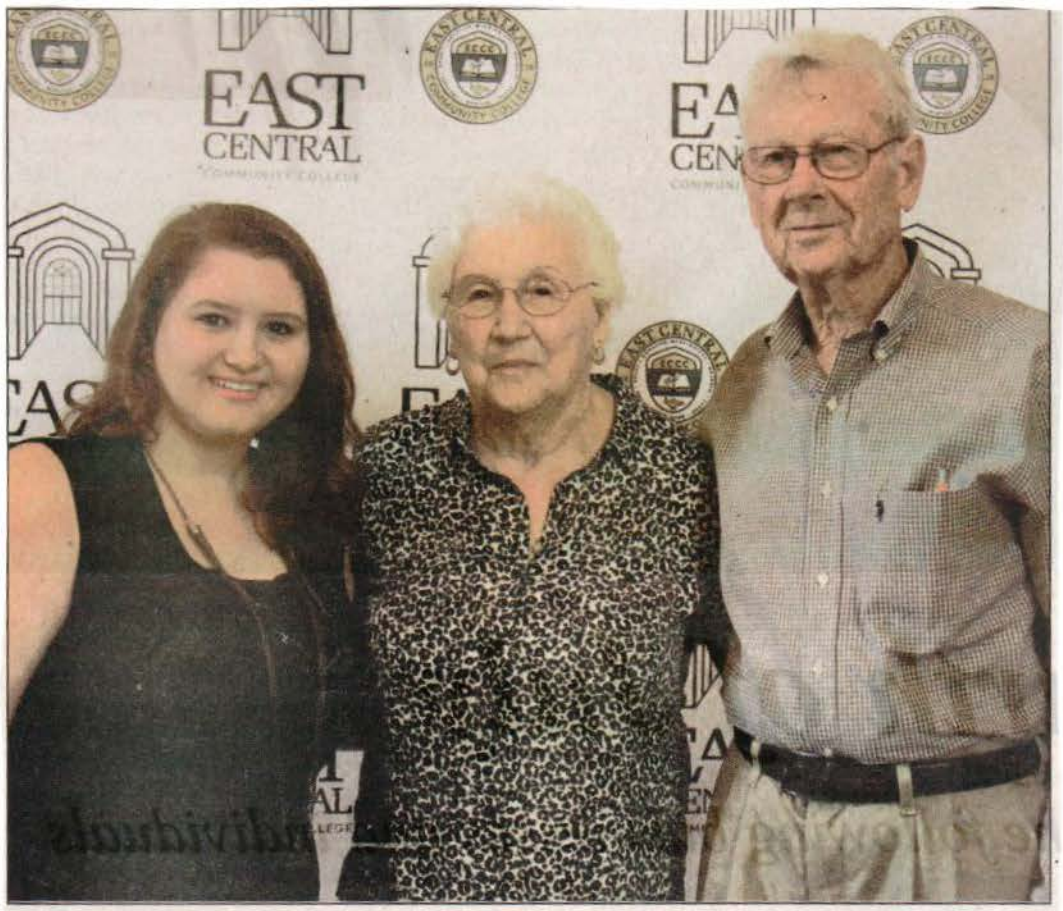
WEEK OF June 28, 2015



Amanda Creekmore (left), a graduate of Newton County Academy, is the recipient of the Kinoth and Ella Mae Thornton and Emerson Electric Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with Ella Mae and Kinoth Thornton during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony.

EC Photo

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WEEK OF June 25, 2015

Ward scholarship

Johnson Receives Captain Charles E. Ward Scholarship

Madison Johnson (center), a graduate of Nanih Waiya High School, is the recipient of the Captain Charles E. Ward USN/RET Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representatives Gloria Joiner (left) and Brody Richardson during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Phot

Week of June 7, 2

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal ✓

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal ✓

Other Publications _____

The five students who were on the program at the 2015 East Central Community College commencement ceremony celebrate on campus prior to the event.

EC photo

Learning, Community Partnerships, Resource Planning and Development, and Communication — which serve as core functions for the college to shape its vision and fulfill its mission.

The plan includes the college's long-term stated desire to be nationally recognized and locally preferred, while meeting the educational and training needs of its five-county district in Mississippi — Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and Winston counties.

Stewart said that while he is pleased with the historic increases in student completions during the 2014-15 academic year at East Central Community College, it's just one small part of a comprehensive plan for ECCC to be recognized as one of the finest community colleges in the nation.

"2020 Vision guides every decision we make as a college, whether it is student success or community partnerships, and we've made tremendous progress in the first two years of this plan in fulfillment of all five institutional commitments," said Stewart.

"There is much work to be done, and seeing the success this past year in creating a supportive learning environment for our students gives us that much more momentum as we move forward."

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of June 7, 2015

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal ✓

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal ✓

Other Publications _____

These results over a one-year period are extremely uncommon, in our state or our nation," said Stewart, who initiated the strategic planning process when he was named the college's eighth president in 2012. "The success of our students is our top priority at East Central Community College. The initiatives we've implemented in fulfillment of the Student Success as well as Teaching and Learning institutional commitments of our 2020 Vision plan are helping to ensure that our students achieve their full potential, complete their degrees, and leave our college better prepared to achieve their career and life goals."

East Central Community College researched best practices of two-year and four-year colleges and universities nationwide to develop several initiatives aimed at improving student success, particularly in the area of program completion. Among those initiatives were:

• The $40 graduation fee was waived beginning with the 2014-15 academic year as an incentive for more students to apply for graduation and officially complete programs of study.

"Among graduation fees nationally, $40 is probably on the low end," Stewart said. "But to some of our students, it is a lot of money and a factor we felt was keeping them from graduating with their degree or certificate."

• The number of hours needed for a two-year associate degree was reduced from 62 to 60.

"It takes 120 hours to get a baccalaureate degree, so it just made sense for us to lower our two-year associate of arts and associate of science degree requirement to

WEEK OF June 7, 2015

EC graduates largest class in college's history

Sees one-year increase of 62 percent in pre-baccalaureate degree completions

From school reports

Initiatives implemented as part of East Central Community College's 2020 Vision strategic planning process have resulted in the largest graduating class in the two-year college's history and dramatic one-year increases in the percentage of students receiving pre-baccalaureate degrees and those completing all programs.

ECCC awarded degrees or certificates to 568 students after the 2014-15 academic year, the largest one-year total in the Decatur college's 87-year history.

The college also saw a 62 percent increase over the 2013-14 academic year in the number of students earning the two-year pre-baccalaureate associate of arts or associate of science degree, and an overall 36 percent one-year increase in students completing all programs, including pre-baccalaureate degrees, technical degrees, and certificates.

The previous largest graduating class on record was 505 students in 2007.

ECCC third-year President Billy Stewart said the historic numbers are in part a result of initiatives developed and implemented in fulfillment of the college's ongoing 2020 Vision strategic plan designed to shape and guide the institution's future.

60 hours. At 15 hours per semester, our students have an opportunity to finish their requirements and receive their degrees in four semesters, or two years," Stewart explained.

• The number of hours needed for a full-time course load was increased from 12 to 15 hours. Students successfully completing the full load of 15 hours over four semesters have an opportunity to graduate in two years.

• The number of hours needed for completion in the Associate of Applied Science technical degree and the career certificate programs was converted to allow exit points for students at 30 hours, 45 hours, and 60 hours.

"Our associate of applied science and career programs are 60-hour programs, but by allowing exit points at 30-45-60 we are able to provide students with a stopping point if for some reason they need to exit their program," said Stewart. "At 30 or 45 or 60 hours, a student will receive certification that will begin improving their career and life until they can come back and finish the full program at a later date."

• Late registration was reduced from one week —or five class days — to two days.

"Every day a student registers late, after classes have begun, has a significant correlation with lower grades, not completing, or dropping out," Stewart noted. "With only two days of late registration, our students only miss one Monday-Wednesday-Friday class or one Tuesday-Thursday class. Correspondingly, the attrition rate decreased 6 percent in two years."

> **The success of our students is our top priority.**
>
> Billy Stewart, president of East Central Community College

Stewart said that research at ECCC showed students missing three or more classes during the first week of a semester most times resulted in poor classroom performance and/or withdrawal.

• Every full-time faculty member at East Central Community College is now required to devote one hour per week tutoring students in the Success Center.

"Our research indicates that about one-third of ECCC students use the Success Center on a consistent basis, which is a tremendous amount considering we are considered a commuter college," said Stewart. "And when they do, more than likely they will have a full-time faculty member ready to assist them."

• The number of Reverse Transfers was increased by aggressively pursuing non-graduates at four-year colleges and universities and encouraging them to transfer credits back to ECCC for an associate degree.

Stewart said that increasing the number of students who complete programs and graduate also is important as the state of Mississippi considers moving to a performance-based funding formula in the future.

"Many states now consider a college's or university's success at graduating students when awarding state funding instead of enrollment or other factors," said Stewart, who is chairing a committee of community college administrators in Mississippi who are looking at the impact of such a formula for the state.

"So it's important that we continually seek improvements in our educational programs and learning environments that help our students successfully complete their programs of study."

Adopted in February 2013, ECCC's 2020 Vision strategic plan includes five institutional commitments—Student Success, Teaching and

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WEEK OF June 7, 2015

Special awards

ECCC 'Special' Award Recipients

These students were the recipients of "special" awards during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Students and their respective awards include (front row, from left) Eli Parker of Little Rock, Citizenship Award; Kristen Gordy of Forest, Ann Burkes Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship; Zachary Allen of Louisville, Dr. Margaret Mosal for Leadership Scholarship; Zach Peden of Philadelphia, Richard Fisher Organic Chemistry Award; and Noah Corcoran of Louisville, co-recipient, East Central Environmental Club Award; and (second row, from left) Tesia Keith of Corinth and Jerry Byrd of Biloxi, co-recipients, Roy Pete Award for Soccer; Jenna Lovorn of Louisville, Astronomy Club Award; Quinton Campbell of Wilmer, Ala., Anthony Coleman Men's Basketball Award; and Matt Griffin of Union, co-recipient, East Central Environmental Club Award. Not pictured is Jeremy Hudson of DeKalb, Alford J. Deaton Physics Award. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF June 7, 2015

Alumni awards

These students were among those receiving Alumni Memorial awards during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Students and their respective awards include (front row, from left) Hanna Williams of Conehatta, Billy Wayne Baucum Secondary Education Award; Charles Thorne of Decatur, W.A. Coursey, Jr. Engineering Award; Delton Harrison of Little Rock, Danny Ray Killens Engineering Award; John Thames of Decatur, Ruth Carr-Vincent Academic Award for Excellence in Non-Traditional Education; Christy Bryan of Philadelphia, Opal McMullan Dickerson Elementary Education Scholarship; and Rachel Laird of Meridian, Alatha Chaney English Award; and (back row, from left) Tiffany Watkins of Lawrence, Sara Carr Deaton Business Technology Award; Stephen Stewart of Decatur, Sue Yarbrough Fulgham Speech Award; Anna Katherine Nowell of Philadelphia, Arno Vincent Award for Academic Excellence in Athletics; LaMarcus Franks of State Line, Andrew F. Webb Football Award; Ramone Tate of Bay St. Louis, Howard Sessums Men's Basketball Award; Allison Johnson of Philadelphia, Jack B. Mayo Phi Theta Kappa Award; and Zachary Allen of Louisville, Dr. Edwin Miller Medical Services Award. Not pictured are Jeremiah Chapman of Newton, William S. Giffin Men's Intramural Award; Jaleshia Jones of Waynesboro, Earline Wood Memorial Award for Women's Basketball; and Julian Fuentes of Newton, Homer F. Hunter Athletic Managers Award. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF June 7, 2015

Awards

Receive ECCC Faculty Memorial Awards

These students were among those receiving Faculty Memorial awards during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Students and their respective awards include (front row, from left) Ben Pace of Philadelphia, Aaron R. Davis Memorial Scholarship; Pashien Simone Kelly-Johnson of Gulfport, Frank Edwin & Nena Holt Leatherwood Biology Science Award; Sam Mitchell of Decatur, Dr. Shelby L. Harris Memorial Scholarship; Bryan Burton of Louisville, J. Wallace Bedwell Business Award; Brooke Payne of Union, Frank M. Cross Freshman Chemistry Award; Devin Skinner of Philadelphia, J. Andy Miller Freshman Engineering Award; and Timothy Laird of Newton, O.L. Newell Drafting Award; and (back row, from left) Tracy Gray of Lake, Charles E. Pennington Business Technology Award; Tallie Johnston of Lake, Robert G. Fick Memorial Scholarship; Emily Cook of Carthage, Ruth Hull Memorial Wo-He-Lo Award; Will Myers of Philadelphia and Chance Whitten of Batesville, co-recipients, Jamie Clark Memorial Baseball Award; Kaylee Yates of Decatur, Leon Eubanks Kaljyo-Peers Leadership Award; Louise Berryhill of Union, L.B. Simmons History Award; John Hedrick of Newton, Thomas W. Thrash Memorial Scholarship; and Christy Bryan of Philadelphia, General William Patrick Wilson Academic Scholarship. (EC Photo)

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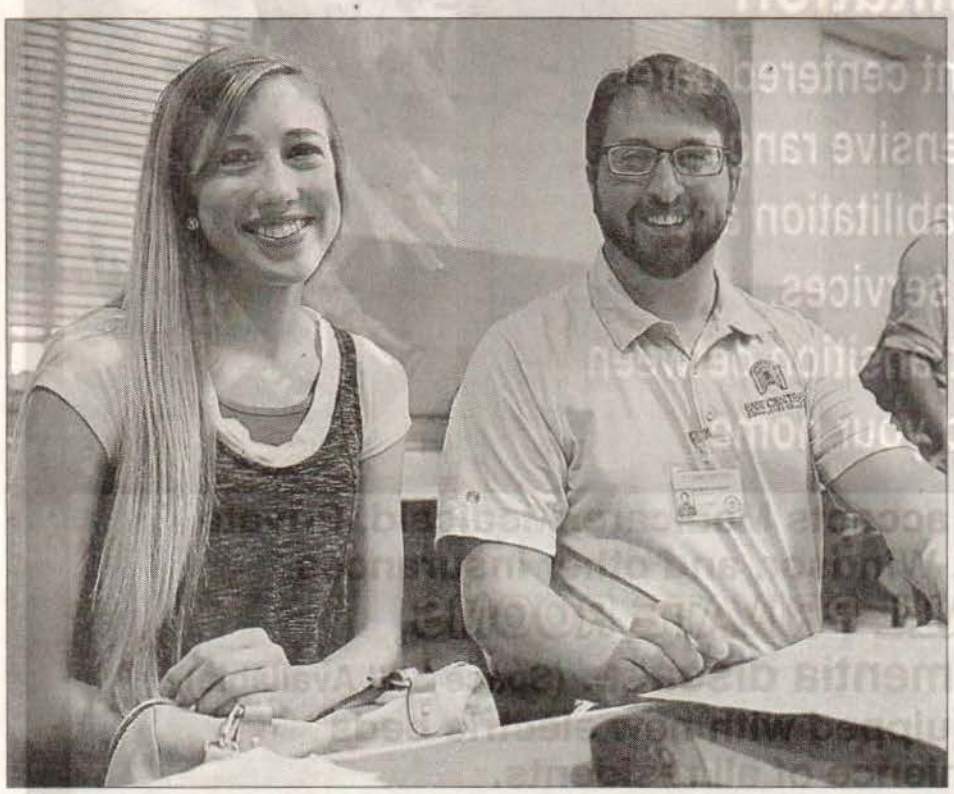
WEEK OF JUNE 7, 2015

ATTENDS ECCC REGISTRATION



Submitted photo

Sarah Laird, left, of Meridian was among area students who attended registration activities held recently at East Central Community College in Decatur. The homeschool graduate is shown planning her fall class schedule with assistance from English instructor Robert Everett. Additional registration sessions are scheduled July 9 and Aug. 14. Fall classes begin Aug. 17. For more information, contact ECCC Student Services at (601) 635-6205 or email rlee@eccc.edu

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WEEK OF JUN 24, 2015

ECCC announces spring semester honor roll

Students named to the 2015 spring semester honor roll, which includes those selected to the President's List and Dean's List, have been announced at East Central Community College in Decatur.

President's List

Those named to the President's List, students with a 4.0 grade point average, include the following:

Forest: Christopher Brown, Lori Cox, Bailey Easterling, Kristen Gordy, Jennifer Grove, Lindsay Hedge, Brittney Rawson and Kaitlin Smith

Lake: Erynne Breland, Anthony Emmons, Tallie Johnston, Christian Kelly, Matthew Mitchell and Tyler Richardson

Morton: Evan Derrick, Grayson Harrell, Carla Land, Joseph Patrick and Tyler Runnels

Pulaski: Bethany Barnes

Sebastopol: William Wragg

Dean's List

The Dean's List includes the following students who achieved a 3.5 or above grade point average.

Forest: Jeremy Collins, Candice Crimm, Katherine Fortenberry, Alan Graham, Evany Gray, Samantha Haralson, Taren Harrell, Grecia Hernandez, Kristine Jenkins, Catherine Kyzar, Taylor Lott, Judy Massey, Laron Moore, Madison Pettigrew, Bryce Power, John Reiss, Ephraim Ringo and Ananezia Triplett

Harperville: Louis Tolbert

Lake: Emily Emmons, Tracy Gray, Jasmine Moore, Brittney Taylor and Keifer Wolfe

Morton: Rachal Aburto, James Cornelison, Hope Craft, Skylar Davidson, Jayson Dempsey and Memry Thompson

Sebastopol: Natalie Guidry

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WEEK OF JUNE 14, 2015

Knabusch Scholarship winners announced

Bishop

Craven

Federick

Pientowski

Richardson

Smith

La-Z-Boy South has named its scholarship winners from Edward M. & Henrietta M. Knabusch Scholarship Foundation.

Keith Bishop, Rayanne Crave, Allison Federick, Tyler Richardson, Amanda Pientowski and Kaitlin Smith $2,000 scholarships.

Bishop, the son of Marilyn and Ricky Bishop of Decatur, will be a sophomore at East Central Community College in the fall.

While at EC this past year, he was a member of the chorus and tennis team. He also works at Chesney's Restaurant in Little Rock, as well as Simply Southern Upholstery. He is a member of Hickory Baptist Church and voluntarily helps elderly in his community with yard work.

After EC, he plans to continue his education at the University of Southern Mississippi to obtain a degree in forensic science.

Craven, the daughter of Chris and Angela Craven of Newton, will start her senior year at Mississippi State University, seeking a degree in criminology.

Her extra-curricular activities during college include Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Phi Sigma and student leader in AWANA at Cedar Grove Baptist Church. She also works at the Newton County Animal Clinic.

She has also been on the president's list at both ECCC and MSU and was named to Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities.

Federick, the daughter of David and Gail Federick of Lawrence and graduate of Newton County Academy, was a member of the Honor Society, FBLA, FCA, and Kountry Cruizers Car Club. Her awards/honors include honor roll, headmaster's list, senior homecoming maid and vice president of the honor society. She also works at the Piggly Wiggly.

Federick plans to attend Meridian Community College in the fall, pursuing a degree in respiratory therapy.

Pientowski, the daughter of Mike and Michelle Pientowski of Newton, will begin her senior year at Mississippi State University in the fall, where she will continue to pursue her degree in elementary education. She also works at Dollar General.

Richardson, the son of Mike and Vickie Richardson of Lawrence and graduate of Newton County High School, has participated in FFA, vacation Bible school, canned food drive, Children's Barnyard, NCRS wildlife festival, livestock judging and land judging. With FFA, he received the Greenhand and chapter degree. He also works for a local farm, clearing land, working cattle and cutting grass.

He plans to attend East Central Community College in the fall to obtain a degree as an HVAC technician.

Smith, the daughter of Pam and Tim Smith of Forest, will start her junior year at East Central Community College.

During her first year at EC, she was a cheerleader, member of Phi Beta Kappa, Wo-He-Lo annual staff, Warrior Corp and Students Against Destructive Decisions.

After EC, she plans to continue her education at the University of Southern Mississippi to obtain her degree in nursing. Her long-range plans include seeking a degree in anesthesia at USM.

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WEEK OF May 31, 2015

ECCC announces spring semester Honor Roll

Students named to the 2015 spring semester honor roll, which includes those selected to the President's List, Dean's List and Honorable Mention List, have been announced at East Central Community College in Decatur, according to Deanna Rush, director of admissions and records.

President's List
(Alphabetically by hometown)

Those named to the President's List, students with a 4.0 grade point average, include the following: Brandon: Robert Taylor; Carthage: Emily Cook, John Davis, Alec Doggett, Haley Ezelle, Anna Girling, Julianna Ingram, Parker Jones, Kelsey Sikes and Brooklyn Stewart; Choctaw: Erin Cantrell and Elias Jimmie; Chunky: Joseph Clark, Ashley Gressett, Mikayla May and JoHannah Smith; Collinsville: Malorie Hunt and Benjamin Pace; Conehatta: Nina LaBue, Kelsey McDonald and Genieveve Nichols; Decatur: Adam Bout, Sharon Bout, Kaley Bufkin, AnnaLea Clarke, Leah Corhern, Lalah McMullan, Samuel Mitchell, Katie Sanford, Tyler Spence, Stephen Stewart, Rebecca Tero, John Thames, Charles Thorne, Caleb Vaughn and Kaylee Yates: DeKalb: Jeremy Hudson

Diamonhead: Pashien Kelley-Johnson; Florence: Durham Norman; Forest: Christopher Brown, Lori Cox, Bailey Easterling, Kristen Gordy, Jennifer Grove, Lindsay Hedge, Brittney Rawson and Kaitlin Smith; Foxworth: Joshua Parker; Gulfpor: Carrissa Stevenson; Hickory: Aaren Avera, Katherine Jacome-Cluff, Alexa Roberts, Timothy Rose, Makenzie Rowzee, Tabitha Walker, Haleigh West and Courtney Williams; Kosciusko: Ashley Williamson; Lake: Erynne Breland, Anthony Emmons, Tallie Johnston, Christian Kelly, Matthew Mitchell and Tyler Richardson; Lawrence: Hannah Mitchell, Laura Shook and James Travassos; Lena:: Blake Barnes, Shelly Dowell, Kristen Richmond and Haley Watkins; Little Rock: Danielle Gregory, Delton Harrison, Lacye Harrison, William Howington and Dylan Raines; Louin: Jacob McNeil; Louisville: David Boydstun, Alexander Bucklew, Bryan Burton, Tiara Coleman, Carly Dickerson, Cara Jackson, Dylan Jones, Barbara Lawson, Jordan Lovorn, Jessica Moffett, Warner Parkes, Jordan Prisock, Megan Robinson and Chandlor Swearingen

McCool: Kierra Griffin; Meridian: Rachel Laird, Hannah Mitchell and Samuel Robinson; Morton: Morton Evan Derrick, Grayson Harrell, Carla Land, Joseph Patrick and Tyler Runnels; Newton: William Collins, Shannon St. Clair, Caleb Terry and Stephanie Willis; Noxapater: Candace Barrett and Anna Webb; Pascagoula: Katherine Moran, Megan Parrish, Brittany Rasco and Alana Walker; Philadelphia: Rashada Boler, Caleb Brown, Kendall Brown, Christy Bryan, Brian Cloys, Elizabeth Curran, Chelsea Doss, Katlyn Duke, Dylan Dunn, Jessie Hennington, Kathryn Hillman, Allison Johnson, Colt Killen, John Kilpatrick, Chaiydreanna LeFlore, Joanna Maxie, Hosea McBeath, Bridgette McFarland, Kelly McLain, Michael McLain, Anna Nowell, Kendrell Peden, Zachary Peden, Madison Pike, Cappi Reese, Michael Skinner, Lydia Snow, Brittany Stinson, Sharon Strait, Kimberly Watkins, Michael Whitlock, Emma Winstead and Elizabeth Withers: Pulaski: Bethany Barnes

Sebastopol: William Wragg; Southaven: Katelyn Denton; Union: Jonathan Adkins, Agatha Berryhill, Michael Hackett, Benjamin Killen, Karey Ladd, Keri Mayfield, Sean McElfish, Brady McElhenney, Brooke Payne, Leslie Smith and Taylor Townsend; Walnut Grove: Lauren Copeland; West Point: Maegen Ellis; Wiggins: Robert Owen

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WEEK OF May 31, 2015

East Central CC tallies spring honorees

Students named to the 2015 spring semester honor rolls, including President's List, Dean's List and Honorable Mention List, have been announced at East Central Com-munity College.

President's List scholars, students with a 4.0 grade point average included:

Emily Cook, John Davis, Alec Doggett, Haley Ezelle, Anna Girling, Julianna Ingram, Parker Jones, Kelsey Sikes and Brooklyn Stewart, all of Carthage;

Blake Barnes, Shelly Dowell, Kristen Richmond and Haley Watkins, all of Lena;

Lauren Copeland, of Walnut Grove, and William Wragg, of Sebastopol;

Dean's List scholars, students 3.5 or higher grade point averages, inlcuded:

Austin Anderton, Rhett Bradshaw, Gloria Burgess, Emily Crane, Den-Nisha Harvey, Evangeline Harvey, Hannah Peoples, Kaitlin Pittman, Ryan Posey, Enoc Reynoso, Cody Smith, Johnny Stephens and Chloe Thaggard, all of Carthage;

Lorrie Moore and Tymaiya Gray, of Lena; Natalie Guidry, of Sebastopol; and Louis Tolbert, of Harperville;

Nathanael Barber, Amber Chandler, Tatyana Johnson, Shannon McNeill, Dekendrick Rushing, Clay Summers-Jones and Sarah Wysocki, all of Walnut Grove.

Honorable mention scholars, students with 3.0 or higher grade point averages, included:

Kenshelsa Boyd, Madie Brantley, Hunter Brown, Thomas Brown, Jeremy Carson, Chelsey Daugherty, Brianna Dorricott, Greyson Dye, Tyler Faulkner, Jamari Green, Monica Hamilton, Payton Hinkle, Keanu Hoye, Wesley Jelen, Shannon Keene, Britney McCurty, Andrew McMillan, Victoria Sanders, Kayla Searcy, Lillian Shuler, Alycia Watkins and Kristin White, all of Carthage;

Katie Pigg, of Lena; Dean Martin, of Harperville;

Ashland Ellington, Tanisha Imhof, Amber Pierce, Erin Thornton, Reba Thornton and Emily Price, all of Walnut Grove.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 31, 2015

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

These East Central Community College sophomores received transfer scholarships to Mississippi University for Women, which were presented during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Pictured is (from left) Dominique Evans, Lawrence; Jessie Boatner, Philadelphia; Jenny Grove and Kimberly Harrison, both of Forest; and Haley Pierce, Noxapater.

ECCC PHOTO

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____
NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____
SPIRIT OF MORTON _____
MERIDIAN STAR _____
NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____
SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X
WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____
CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 31, 2015

"Student of Year" for PN

May 28, 2015

Cutline:

Selected ECCC Practical Nursing 'Student of the Year'

Lauren Whitehead of Louisville received the Practical Nursing Student of the Year award during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Additional healthcare awards were presented to Hayden Stokes of Louisville, Associate Degree Nursing Outstanding Achievement Award; Lauren Whitehead of Louisville, Practical Nursing Award; and Michael Reynolds of Philadelphia, Paramedic Technology Award. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 31, 2015

Scholarships

ECCC Students Receive MUW Scholarships

These East Central Community College sophomores received transfer scholarships to Mississippi University for Women, which were presented during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Pictured is (from left) Dominique Evans, Lawrence; Jessie Boatner, Philadelphia; Jenny Grove and Kimberly Harrison, both of Forest; and Haley Pierce, Noxapater. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 24, 2015

EC Hall of Fame recognized

East Central Community College recently announced inductees into the 2015 Hall of Fame, the highest honor a student can receive at the college. They include, pictured from left, Leah Ferguson and Allison Johnson, both of Philadelphia; Lauren Cantey of Collinsville, Caleb Stallings of Enterprise, Zach Allen of Louisville and Warner Parkes of Nanih Waiya. The honorees were announced during Awards Day activities held April 30, 2015 in Huff Auditorium. Their photos will hang in the Hall of Fame Collection in the lobby of Huff Auditorium.

EC photo

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 24, 2015

EC gospel choir sophomores recognized

Sophomore members of the East Central Community College Gospel Choir were recognized during the group's spring banquet held April 29 in the Molly Magee Gold Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on the Decatur campus. Pictured from left are Glenn Bender of Newton, Contessa Peebles and T'Keya Backstrom, both of Philadelphia, and Jeremiah Chapman of Newton. Brenda K. Johnson serves as sponsor.

EC photo

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 24, 2015

West, Rowzee sing 'Remember'

Haleigh West (left) and Makenzie Rowzee, both of Hickory, perform the musical selection "Whenever You Remember" during East Central Community College's Commencement ceremony held Friday, May 8, 2015, at the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

CLIP FILE S

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Week of

Carthaginian

Clarion-Ledger

Meridian Star

Neshoba Democrat

Newton Appeal ✓

during banquet

These members of the 2015 East Central Community College women's tennis team received honors at the annual Spring Sports Awards Banquet held recently on the Decatur campus. Award winners and their respective high schools include, from left, Shannon St. Claire of Newton Co., Warrior award; Brooke Payne of Union, scholar athlete award; Macken'z Smith of Newton Co., most valuable player; and Hanna Peoples of Leake Academy, most valuable player and team captain. ECCC vice president for instruction Teresa Houston and adjunct tennis coach Dianne O'Neill presented awards.

Lady Warrior basketball players who received honors at East Central Community College's annual Spring Sports Awards Banquet and their respective high schools include, from left, (seated) Tashi-Ana Thompson Miller Grove High School in Lithonia, Ga., scholar athlete award and most valuable offensive player; Tynika Bender of Newton High School, hustle award and most valuable defensive player; Kalybriah Haskin of Olympian High School in San Diego, most improved player; (standing) Shakerya Morrison of East Wake High School in Wendell, N.C., co-most valuable player; Samantha Duncan, Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, Warrior award; and Jaleshia Jones of Wayne County High School in Waynesboro, co-most valuable player.

EC Photo

East Central honors athletes

Recipients of cheerleader awards recently presented at East Central Community College's Spring Sports Awards Banquet and their respective hometowns include, from left, Alana Kron of Newton County, coach's award; Keri Ann Mayfield of Union, scholar athlete; Mak Rowzee of Newton County, scholar athlete award; and Hunter Brown of Leake Academy, spirit award. ECCC vice president for instruction Teresa Houston and cheer coach Pauline Karcher presented honors during the annual Spring Sports Awards Banquet held recently on the Decatur campus.

EC Photo

East Central Community College's adjunct tennis coach Dianne O'Neill of Decatur was honored during the college's annual Spring Sports Awards Banquet held recently on the Decatur campus. O'Neill served as men's and women's adjunct tennis coach for eight years and announced her retirement following this season. She began serving the college as a volunteer assistant coach in 2007. O'Neill (left) is shown holding a plaque that was presented to her in recognition of her years of service by dean of athletics and personnel services Chris Harris.

EC Photo

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

WEEK OF May 24, 2015

ECCC DRUM MAJORS, 2015-16

Selected as drum majors for the 2015-16 Wall O' Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College in Decatur are, from left, Louise Berryhill of Newton County, Danielle Horne of Union, Landon Bounds of Neshoba Central and Katie Ware of Lake.

Submitted photo

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

Nursing students awarded degree pins in ceremony at East Centra

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Carthaginian

Clarion-Ledger

Meridian Star

Neshoba Democ

Newton Appeal

Scott County Ti

Spirit of Morton

Winston County

Other Publicatio

WEEK May 17, 2015

These East Central Community College students received their associate degree nursing pins during a special ceremony held Wednesday, May 6, in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Graduates and their respective hometowns include (front row from left) Tiara Bailey, Meridian; Melissa Barham, Polkville; Sherrie Perry, Decatur; Jessica Steen, Kosciusko; Robyn Johnson, Sebastopol; Kenya Hickman, Louisville; Casie McClendon, Forest; Shelby Harthcock, Newton; and Hayden Stokes, Louisville; (second row from left) Tiffany Anderson, Newton; Kayla Jenkins, Louisville; Traci Lewis, Decatur; Hailey Smith Jones and Bethany Jones, both of Philadelphia; Aimee Woods, Louisville; Chassidy Gates, Decatur; Mary Catherine Hunt, Louisville; Taylor Deese, Noxapater; Reagan Anderson, Philadelphia; Tony Sistrunk, Sebastopol; John Mark Carter, Louisville; and Amber Pierce, Carthage; (third row from left) Nikki Smith, Union; Sharley Hardin, Rebecca Wicker and Danielle Pettigrew, all of Forest; Bailey Talbot, Louisville; Aleta Shade, Carthage; Kimberly Noblin, Forest; Amy Whittle and Chesney Spence, both of Philadelphia; Kayla McCleary and Victoria Sanders, both of Carthage; Angela Reeves, Decatur; and Alex Meador, Chunky; fourth row from left, Marty Boatner, Louisville; Kalecia Bean, Bruce; Emily Price, Sebastopol; Katie Pigg, Carthage; Eula Lewis, Brandon; Darryl Cooks, Walnut Grove; Trilandra Ware, Forest; Kurt Simoneau, Louin; Patience Haynes, Noxapater; Jordan Clearman, Philadelphia; Samantha Ellingburg, Little Rock; Shakeela Flournoy Taylorsville; and Shane Wilbourne, Forest. Denita Thomas serves as dean of healthcare education.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER

WEEK OF May 10, 2015

Allen addresses fellow graduates during ECCC commencement

Special to The Star

Addressing his fellow graduates during East Central Community College's 86th commencement, held Friday at the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia, Zach Allen of Louisville encouraged his classmates to overcome their fears.

"Ed Helms said, 'Don't be afraid of fear. Because it sharpens you, it challenges you, it makes you stronger; and when you run away from fear, you also run away from the opportunity to be your best possible self.' Fear is a major obstacle in the world today. Whether it is a fear of trying new things or what people think of us, in the end, it all doesn't matter," said Allen, who is an ECCC Hall of Fame recipient and president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

He continued his remarks by reminiscing about the fear he had during his first week at East Central and how he chose joy as opposed to worry or dread, which in turn led to a great college experience.

"I came to East Central in hopes of receiving a good education that would equip me for further learning," Allen said. "I am leaving East Central better prepared not only academically, but spiritually as well. Thank you to all of the faculty and administration for investing your time in us students on campus and especially me. You all have played a part in making East Central the No. 1 community college in the state where we do things the EC Way-Excellence With Class."

He concluded his remarks by quoting Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear because God is with you."

In addition to Allen, those participating in the program included graduating sophomores Leah Ferguson of Philadelphia, invocation; Ramone Tate of Bay St. Louis, benediction; and Haleigh West and Makenzie Rowzee, both of Hickory, who presented the musical selection "Whenever You Remember."

College President Dr. Billy W. Stewart awarded degrees and certificates to nearly 600 graduates. Dr. Teresa Houston, Vice President for Instruction, presented candidates.

Submitted photo

Zach Allen addresses his fellow graduates during East Central Community College's 86th commencement.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR X

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF May 10. 2015

ECCC ADN Graduates

These East Central Community College students received their Associate Degree Nursing pins during a special ceremony held Wednesday, May 6, 2015, in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Graduates and their respective hometowns include (front row, from left) Tiara Bailey, Meridian; Melissa Barham, Polkville; Sherrie Perry, Decatur; Jessica Steen, Kosciusko; Robyn Johnson, Sebastopol; Kenya Hickman, Louisville; Casie McClendon, Forest; Shelby Harthcock, Newton; and Hayden Stokes, Louisville; (second row, from left) Tiffany Anderson, Newton; Kayla Jenkins, Louisville; Traci Lewis, Decatur; Hailey Smith Jones and Bethany Jones, both of Philadelphia; Aimee Woods, Louisville; Chassidy Gates, Decatur; Mary Catherine Hunt, Louisville; Taylor Deese, Noxapater; Reagan Anderson, Philadelphia; Tony Sistrunk, Sebastopol; John Mark Carter, Louisville; and Amber Pierce, Carthage; (third row, from left) Nikki Smith, Union; Sharley Hardin, Rebecca Wicker and Danielle Pettigrew, all of Forest; Bailey Talbot, Louisville; Aleta Shade, Carthage; Kimberly Noblin, Forest; Amy Whittle and Chesney Spence, both of Philadelphia; Kayla McCleary and Victoria Sanders, both of Carthage; Angela Reeves, Decatur; and Alex Meador, Chunky; (fourth row, from left) Marty Boatner, Louisville; Kalecia Bean, Bruce; Emily Price, Sebastopol; Katie Pigg, Carthage; Eula Lewis, Brandon; Darryl Cooks, Walnut Grove; Trilandra Ware, Forest; Kurt Simoneau, Louin; Patience Haynes, Noxapater; Jordan Clearman, Philadelphia; Samantha Ellingburg, Little Rock; Shakeela Flournoy Taylorsville; and Shane Wilbourne, Forest. Denita Thomas serves as Dean of Healthcare Education. (EC Photo)

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL

CLARION-LEDGER

WEEK OF May 2, 2015

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Students win Skills Honors

DECATUR — East Central Community College workforce education students received various honors at the Mississippi SkillsUSA Competition held in Jackson in March.

First place award-winners and their respective areas of competition include Jay Riser of Forest, cabinetmaking; Blake Faulkner of Carthage, carpentry; William Milner of Lena, electrical construction wiring; Chad Simoneau of Louin, plumbing; and Asif Zaffar of Philadelphia, sheet metal. As a first-place winners they will represent Mississippi at the National SkillsUSA Competition scheduled June 22-27, 2015, in Louisville, Ky.

Matthew Bishop of Carthage won a second place award in heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Third place award-winners and their respective areas of competition include Stephen Armstrong, diesel technology and Jason Forrest, technical drafting, both of Decatur; Justin Winstead of Union, motorcycle service technology; Wally Triplett of Nanih Waiya, industrial motor control; Jennings Davis of Louisville, CNC milling; Austin Mize of Newton, commercial baking; and Enoc Reynoso of Carthage, food and beverage service.

For more information, contact Wayne Eason, director of workforce education at ECCC in Decatur, 601-635-6211 or e-mail weason@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of May 24, 2015

Carthaginian ✓

Clarion-Ledger

Meridian Star

Neshoba Democrat

Newton Appeal ✓

Scott County Times

Spirit of Morton ✓

Winston County Jour

Other Publications

DECEMBER 2015 GRADUATES

DECATUR: Melissa Grace Anderson, Andrea Lynee Mc-

AUGUST 2015 GRADUATES

CONEHATTA: Savannah Hillman;

Nearly 600 graduates received diplomas May 8, when East Central Community College held its commencement in the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia. Graduates participating i program include graduating sophomores Leah Ferguson of Philadelphia, Zach Allen of Louis Haleigh West of Hickory, Ramone Tate of Bay St. Louis and Makenzie Rowzee, of Hickory guson gave the invocation, Allen was the commencement speaker; Tate gave the benedictio West and Rowzee presented the musical selection "Whenever You Remember".

May 24, 2015

ceremony

DECATUR: Kelli E. Dailey, Lauren Humphries, Alyssa C. Norwood and Miriam P. Williams;

HICKORY: Matthew T. Majure;

LAKE: Jessica L. Alford and Shatarra Antwanette Ickom;

LITTLE ROCK: Jessica Leighanne Wright;

NEWTON: Nikki D. Jones and Victoria Lauren Shimfessel;

PHILADELPHIA: Arianna O. Creekmore, Glenda Wallace Gardner, Wendy Marshall, Hadley Shea Tate and Whitney Alyssa Waddell;

SEBASTOPOL: Julie Sagona Guidry;

UNION: Courtney D. Moorehead, Kelley Page and Hope Ware.

WEEK OF May 2 - 2015

ECCC holds 86th commencement

Nearly 600 graduates were scheduled to receive diplomas Friday, May 8, when East Central Community College held its 86th commencement in the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia.

Included in the total are those who completed degree requirements following the 2015 summer and fall terms, according to Teresa Houston, vice president for instruction.

Those participating in the program include graduating sophomores Leah Ferguson of Philadelphia, who gave the invocation; Zach Allen of Louisville, commencement speaker; and Ramone Tate of Bay St. Louis, benediction. Haleigh West and Makenzie Rowzee, both of Hickory, presented the musical selection "Whenever You Remember."

College president Billy Stewart awarded degrees and certificates to the following:

CHUNKY: Jordan Eduardo Alonso, Taylor Godwin and Mikayla Cathryn May;

Katherine Jacome-Cluff, Alexandria Meador, Timothy Blain Rose, Makenzie Nicole Rowzee, Lydia Hope Snow and Haleigh Jordan West;

LAKE: Jamison Davis, Matthew Darrell Ferguson, Rienzi Gray, Tracy Bobbitt Gray, Wesley C. Hines, Jonathon L. Hodge, Dakota Gabrielle Hollingsworth, Shane Naquin, Lacie Williams and Keifer Martin Wolfe;

LAWRENCE: Dominique A. Evans, Kadeejha D. Gardner, Shaniqua Hardy, George E. Lee, Jr. and Laura Elena Shook;

LITTLE ROCK: Jeffery Alexander, William Audie Cress, Samantha Ellingburg, Danielle Gregory, Mark S. Hale, Delton Harrison, Lacye Harrison, William Howington, Trystan E. Parker, Abbey E. Rigdon and Hunter Vance;

Chris Bankston, Ryan D. Burkes, Brittany Nicole Burnham, Matthew Blake Callahan, Chireatha Drummond, Kirstin Meignon Eversoll, Jonathan Hunter Fortenberry, James Patrick Franklin, Daniel Mark Giles, Benjamin Scott Killen, Jessica L. Loper, Victoria Malone, David Mathis, Sean T. McElfish, Breanna Marie Morgan, Zachary Mowdy, Casey Jerome Parker, Shawna D. Peets, Shauncey Maria Rich, Hannah Grace Robinson, William John Schmid, Tiffany N. Smith, Sarah Joanna Tatum and Taylor N. Townsend;

CONEHATTA: Katie Bradley, Breena LeShae Chickaway, Robyn Johnson, Amber C. Jones, Austin Jordan, Amy Renee May, Tania Marie Rhodes, Darrin Edwin Rolison Jr., Brittany Nicole Tatum, Christy Ann Williams and Hanna Williams;

DECATUR: Jonathan Amis, Angela J. Anderson, Dennis Jay Anderson Jr., Edward J. Boudreaux, Adam Brooks Bout, Hannah Brown, Erika Nicole Cockrell, Alisha Dunn, Katy Marie Ezelle, Sarah Freeman, Chassidy S. Gates, Savannah Marie Glover, Alana Nicole Kron, Traci Harrison Lewis, Abraham Mahdi, Sharon Kay Perry, Angela M. Reeves, Katie Yvonne Sanford, Tyler Spence, Charles L. Thorne, Nicole Cater Tucker, Lane Wilkinson and Seber Tyrone Williams;

HICKORY: Aaren Danielle Avera, Benjamin D. Avera,

Swain and Jessica Thames;

LAKE: Emmarald Jones;

LAWRENCE: Brandi Bianc Massey and Tiffany Nicol Watkins;

LITTLE ROCK: Olivia Harr son;

LOUIN: Christopher Ray Mc Carty;

NEWTON: Britney N. John son, Zachery Elias Mason Shanice Quanta Walker an Kenadaria Latrell Watts;

UNION: Byron Bozeman Sarah Hamm, Lindsey Jo Hol land, Kristien Hope Winstead Karleigh Moss and Shawna D Peets;

NEWTON: Tiffany H. Anderson, Ricky Lee Armstrong, Glenn A. Bender, Jr., Shaneka Blaylock, Antonio Body, Anthony Justus Broach, Sidney Jamez Broach, Jeremiah A. Chapman, William Hunter Collins, Monica Dianne Donald, Jazmine JaNa' Evans, Jovodaka Finley, Brittany Foster, Julian Domingo Fuentes, Mackenzie Gannon, Kenneth Gipson, Ryan Daniel Godwin, Kimberly Renee Gray, Shelby Harthcock, Justin Marquines Hawkins,Tommie D. Hawkins, Cathy Johnson, RaChristopher LaTrelle Jones, Timothy Alan Laird, Joshua K. Lang, Eric Wayne Laster, Shanell Denice Nick, Clancy Loper Norman, William Tyler Pace, Marcus DeVoya Quince II, Sonji Gabrielle Rose, Tiffany L. Skinner, Samantha Anastasia Smith, Shannon St. Clair, Jeffery Stevens, Jamey S. Tune, David K. Williams and Stephanie Kathleen Willis;

PILADELPHIA: Macken'z Nell Smith

UNION: Reagan J. Anderson,

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

CLARION-LEDGER

Week of May 3, 2015

award winners recognized

East Central Community College recently announced inductees into the 2015 Hall of Fame, the highest honor a student can receive at the college. They include (from left) Leah Ferguson and Allison Johnson, both of Philadelphia; Lauren Cantey of Collinsville, Caleb Stallings of Enterprise, Zach Allen of Louisville and Warner Parkes of Nanih Waiya. The honorees were announced during Awards Day activities held April 30, 2015 in Huff Auditorium. Their photos will hang in the Hall of Fame Collection in the lobby of Huff Auditorium. (EC Photo)

described him as an "exceptional" student ambassador for the college. "Warner is and always will be a great ambassador for the college and truly loves ECCC."

Additional honors presented during Awards Day include the following:

Recipients of health-care education awards include Hayden Stokes of Louisville, Associate Degree Nursing Outstanding Achievement Award; Lauren Whitehead of Louisville, Practical Nursing Award; and Michael Reynolds of Philadelphia, Paramedic Technology Award.

Those receiving special awards were Zachary Allen of Louisville, Dr. Margaret Mosal for Leadership Scholarship; Noah Corcoran of Louisville and Matt Griffin of Union, co-recipients, East Central Environmental Club Award; Jenna Lovorn of Louisville, Astronomy Club Award; Madison Barnett of Noxapater, The Tom-Tom Award; and Zach Allen of Louisville, Dr. Edwin Miller Medical Services Award.

Faculty Memorial Awards were presented to Bryan Burton of Louisville, J. Wallace Bedwell Business Award.

Clarion-Ledger _____ Spirit of Morton _____

Meridian Star _____ Winston County Journal ✓

Neshoba Democrat _____ Other Publications _____

ECCC Hall of Fame, additional

May 3, 2015

Recipients of Hall of Fame and other honors were recognized during the annual Awards Day program held April 30, 2015, at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Selection to the Hall of Fame is considered the highest honor a student can receive at the college, according to Dr. Billy Stewart, ECCC president, who presented the awards.

"To be considered for the prestigious honor," Dr. Stewart said, "students must demonstrate exemplary character, superior scholarship, worthy leadership and contribute to the betterment of East Central Community College."

Hall of Fame inductees for 2015 include: Zachary Allen of Louisville, Lauren Cantey of Collinsville, Leah Ferguson and Allison Johnson, both of Philadelphia, Warner Parkes of Nanih Waiya and Caleb Stallings of Enterprise.

Zachary Allen

A 2013 graduate of Winston Academy, Zachary Allen, of Louisville is involved in various clubs and activities at East Central Community College, many of which he serves in a leadership role.

The sophomore biochemistry major is a member of the Student Body Association, Warrior Corps, Phi Beta Lambda, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Astronomy Club, Baptist Student Union and Students Against Destructive Decisions. He serves as president of the college's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges; President's Council; and of the sophomore class. In addition he represents the college as president of the Mississippi/Louisiana Region of Phi Theta Kappa.

At ECCC, Allen received the Jack B. Mayo Phi Theta Kappa Award and was chosen to Who's Who Among American Community & Junior College Students. He was awarded the Presidential, Yates, ACT, Mississippi Land Bank and Dizzy Dean Baseball scholarships.

He is the son of Todd and Janet Allen.

Those nominating Allen described him as an excellent student, saying, "He strives to do his best at everything he does. He always goes out of his way to help and does more than asked."

Another nominator said, "Zachary is involved with East Central. Not many colleges have students who are passionate about their school and other students. He speaks to everyone and always has a smile on his face."

Warner Parkes

A 2013 graduate of Nanih Waiya Attendance Center, Warner Parkes is an active part of East Central Community College's student body, participating in various campus organizations and clubs as well as being a member of two of ECCC's athletic teams.

He served as president of Warrior Corps for 2014-15 and of the Student Education Association his freshman year. Parkes was elected treasurer of the Student Body Association, freshman class favorite and was a homecoming court escort. He is a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, Phi Theta Kappa international honor society and President's Council. Parkes is an active participant in intramural sports, serving as a referee for flag football in 2013-14. In addition, he is a member of the Warrior Cheerleader Squad and serves as basketball statistician and student assistant for the Warrior basketball teams.

A President's List scholar, Parkes was selected Mr. ECCC by his peers and was chosen as a member of Who's Who Among American Community & Junior College Students.

Parkes was awarded the Presidential, ACT and Mississippi Association of Supervisors scholarships.

A sophomore optometry major, Parkes is the son of Tammy and Luke Parkes.

Those nominating Parkes said he "epitomized involvement ever since stepping foot on campus."

"His leadership in Warrior Corps and SBA has been instrumental in helping ECCC accomplish one of its most successful student activities years ever."

He was described by nominators as "dependable," noting that his participation is "a given" in all campus activities, and one said Parkes seems to have "done it all."

Multiple nominators

BA DEMOCRAT _____

COUNTY TIMES _____

N COUNTY JOURNAL X

N-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 26, 2015

PBL awards

ECCC students presented State PBL awards

These Phi Beta Lambda members at East Central Community College in Decatur received various honors at the State PBL Leadership Conference held recently at the Mississippi University for Women. Award-winners and their respective areas of competition include (seated from left) Mark Hale of Little Rock, first place in Cyber Security, third place in Network Design and Who's Who; Virginia Easley of Philadelphia, first place in Integrated Marketing Campaign and Local Chapter Annual Business Report, Who's Who and Outgoing Mississippi PBL State Secretary; Austin Jordan of Conehatta, Who's Who; Leah Ferguson of Philadelphia, first place in Local Chapter Annual Business Report and Small Business Management Plan and Who's Who; and Bryan Burton of Louisville, first place in Small Business Management Plan, fourth place in Personal Finance and Rufus T. Jones Scholarship Recipient; (second row, from left) Caleb Brown of Philadelphia, second place in Social Media Campaign and elected Mississippi PBL State President; Austin Savell of Philadelphia, third place in Information Management and Network Design; Zachary Allen of Louisville, first place in Community Service; Ben Pace of Collinsville, first place in Integrated Marketing Campaign and third place in Organizational Behavior and Leadership; Kimberly Watkins of Philadelphia, first place in Small Business Management Plan and third place in Entrepreneurship Concepts; Michael Elizondo of Morton, third place in Network Design and fourth place in Networking Concepts; and Katie Hillman of Philadelphia, second place in Social Media Campaign and third place in Business Communication; and (third row, from left) CrisAnn Bryan of Philadelphia, second place in Social Media Campaign; Alisha Dunn of Decatur, second place in Desktop Publishing and third place in Sales Presentation; Layne Lepard of Philadelphia, first place in Integrated Marketing Campaign; and Madelon Taylor of Louisville, first place in Community Service. ECCC's PBL Chapter placed first in fundraising for the March of Dimes and was one of only two chapters in the state recognized as Gold Seal Chapters. The group was also named a Foundation Member and the largest chapter in the state. Students placing first and second in presentation events and students placing first, second or third in written events have an opportunity to attend the PBL National Conference in Chicago this June. ECCC workforce education faculty members who serve as advisers include Judy Hurtt, Christy Ferguson, Thomas Fortenberry and Laura Sullivan. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

APPEARED IN

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ✓

CLARION-LEDGER _____

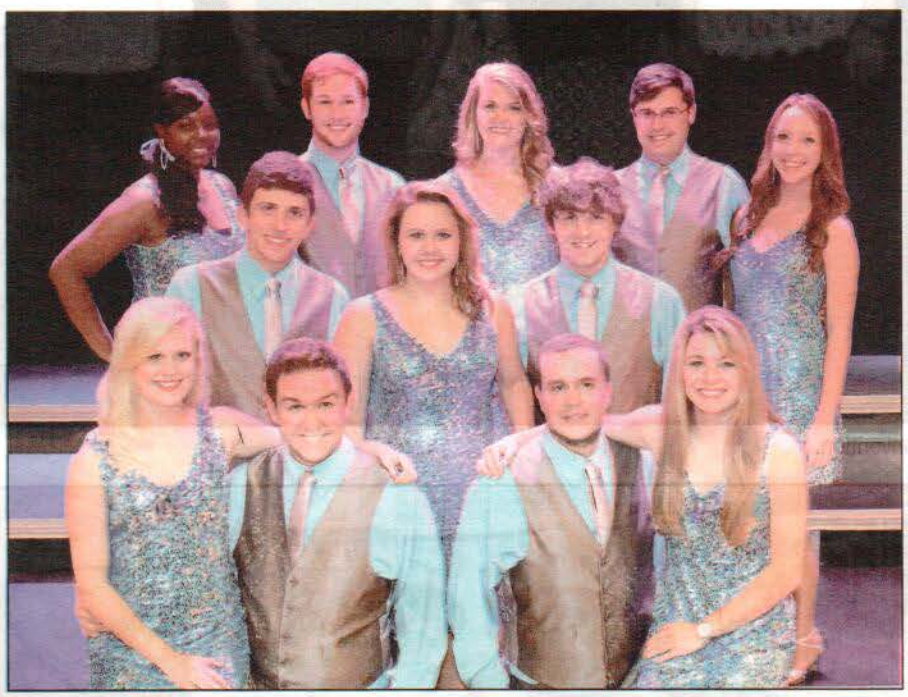
WEEK OF April 26, 2015

ECCC Centralettes chosen for 2015-16

Members of the East Central Community College Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, were recently chosen following auditions on the Decatur campus.

Those selected and their respective hometowns include: Taylor Alexander, Joelie Hill, Paige Johnson and Ashley Young, all of Louisville; Makenzie Byrd and Taylor Fulkerson, both of Conehatta; Kaley Bufkin, Abby Reeves, Sylvia Thames and Kaylee Yates, all of Decatur; Lauren Cassel, Union; Hailey Clark and Madison Hannis, both of Carthage; Emily Dykeman and Brianna Easterling, both of Forest; Kaitlyn Evans, Morton; Taylor Phillips and Chandler Posey, both of Philadelphia; and Anna Claire Webb, Noxapater. Melonie Washington of Philadelphia serves as coordinator of the Centralettes.

Ac'cents perform



ECCC Ac'cents to Perform April 30

Members of the East Central Community College show choir, The Ac'cents, will present their spring campus concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in Vickers Fine Arts Center Auditorium on the Decatur campus. There is no charge for admission and the public is invited to attend. This year's music includes "Takin' It to the Streets" by the Doobie Brothers, "Lips are Moving" by Meghan Trainor, "Just Give Me a Reason" by Pink and Nate Ruess, "When I Was Your Man" by Bruno Mars and "Rhythm Nation" by Janet Jackson. Performers and their respective hometowns include (front row, from left) Haleigh West, Decatur; Dee Jay Rolison, Conehatta; Kirk Griffin, Decatur; and Makenzie Rowzee, Newton; (second row, from left) Ben Pace, Philadelphia; Tallie Johnston, Lake; and Eli Parker, Duffy; and (back row, from left) Kaishanna Young, Philadephia, Ryan Godwin, Newton; Kelli Boulton, Hickory; Zach Peden, Philadelphia; and Cara Jackson, Nanih Waiya. The Ac'cents perform throughout the ECCC district, which includes Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and Winston counties, as well as various community events and campus concerts. For more information contact director Vicki Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or e-mail vblaylock@eccc.edu. (EC Photo)

APPEARED

CARTHAGIN

NEWTON CC

SPIRIT OF M

MERIDIAN S

WEEK OF April 26, 2015

ECCC Expo

Copeland, Triplett Attend ECCC Expo

East Central Community College students Lauren Copeland (center) of Sebastopol and Tammie Triplett (right) of Louisville are shown talking with Jessica Sharp, recruiter for the University of Southern Mississippi, during ECCC's Business, Education and Healthcare Expo held recently in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the Decatur campus. Approximately 165 people attended the Expo and more than 50 vendors participated in the annual event. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ✓

CLARION-LEDGER _____

April 26, 2015

Academic Team

East Central Community College students Zachary Allen (left) of Louisville and Kristen Gordy of Forest were recently honored as members of the 2015 All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team during ceremonies in Jackson.

students named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team.

Appeared in:

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal ✓

Other Publications _____

WEEK OF April 26, 2015

ECCC students named to All-Mississippi

East Central Community College sophomores Kristen Gordy of Forest and Zachary Allen of Louisville were recently named to the 2015 All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team.

They were honored along with other outstanding community and junior college students from across the state during an event in Jackson. Activities began with a meet and greet with state legislators, followed by a press conference on the south capitol steps, a tour of the state capitol, and an awards luncheon at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant was the keynote speaker at the awards luncheon. State Senator Terry Burton of Newton served as master of ceremonies.

The All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team recognizes scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in the state's two-year colleges.

Gordy, a liberal arts major, was one of 15 students named to the First Team. She received a $1,000 scholarship and was featured in The Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Miss.) newspaper.

Gordy is a Dean's List and President's List scholar at East Central. She serves as vice president of fellowship for the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, the international honor society for community college students; and is a member of Warrior Corps student recruiting group, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Encore, East Central's musical theatre organization. She also was selected for "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges".

A graduate of East Rankin Academy, she is the daughter of Wayne and Rachel Gordy of Forest.

Allen, a biochemistry major, was one of 42 students named to the Second Team.

At ECCC, he serves as president of Phi Theta Kappa and of the Mississippi/Louisiana Region of Phi Theta Kappa. He also is president of the President's Council and of the sophomore class. He is a member of the Student Body Association, Warrior Corps, Phi Beta Lambda, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Astronomy Club, Baptist Student Union and SADD. He was chosen to "Who's Who Among Community/Junior College Students".

A graduate of Winston Academy, he is the son of Todd and Janet Allen of Louisville.

Both Gordy and Allen received medallions, certificates, and printed resolutions from the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team program is coordinated by The Clarion-Ledger, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board.

Students named to the All-Mississippi Academic Team compete for placement on the national All-USA Community College Academic Team, sponsored by Follett Higher Education Group, presented by USA Today and with additional support from the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa.

Mississippi ranks sixth in the nation for

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ✓

CLARION-LEDGER _____

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of April 26

Carthaginian ✓

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal ✓✓

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

Decatur, Union women fill top posts in EC govt.

Pictured are the 2015-16 student government officers at East Central Community College in Decatur. Students and their respective hometowns include Student Body Association (SBA) President Kaylee Yates of Decatur, left, SBA Vice President Skylar Davidson of Morton, SBA Treasurer Shelly Dowell of Lena and SBA Secretary Keri Ann Mayfield of Union. Director of Housing/Student Activities Kristi Smith serves as sponsor.

EC photo

WEEK OF April 19, 2015

'Can Bangers' slated at ECCC

The East Central Community College Wall O' Sound's concert band and percussion ensemble perform Thursday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. in Huff Auditorium.

Following the concert band, Assistant Director of Bands Ed Girling will lead the "Can Bangers" percussion ensemble in original percussion music featuring traditional and non-traditional instruments.

There is no charge for admission and the public is invited.

East Central hosts healthfest

East Central Community College's healthcare division will host a healthfest from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 23-24 in the Sutphin Healthcare Building in Decatur.

Faculty and students will present a simulation exercise in mass casualty triage care after a tornado.

Participants will also have an opportunity to tour campus, talk with students, faculty and administration, and learn about healthcare education opportunities available at ECCC.

Anyone interested in a career in healthcare is invited. Those wishing to bring a group should make prior arrangements by telephoning 601-635-6293 or emailing mrigdon@eccc.edu.

ECCC choir schedules auditions

Auditions for the East Central Community College Concert Choir and the show choir, Ac'cents, are scheduled for 1 p.m., Friday, April 24, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

Concert choir members receive a half tuition scholarship and Ac'cents members receive a full tuition scholarship.

Interested students may audition for one or both groups. For more information, telephone director Vicki Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or email vblaylock@eccc.edu.

ECCC launches new ensemble

East Central Community College will introduce a new vocal ensemble for 2015-16, announced Vicki Blaylock, Fine Arts Division chair and music instructor.

"Our new ensemble will be called Voce, the Italian word for voice, and that is what this new group will be all about," she said.

"This a cappella group will be a more inclusive group and will perform selections which could range from madrigals to songs similar to the popular group Pentatonix."

Voce will take the place of the Ac'cents show choir, which is being retired at the end of the spring term.

"The show choir tended to limit our selection of students who could participate. Many great singers did not get involved with Ac'cents because of the dance requirement," Blaylock said.

Auditions for both Voce and the EC Concert Choir are open to high school students at 1 p.m. Friday, April 24, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

Auditioners for Voce will need to prepare solos. Auditions will include evaluation of tonal memory, music reading skills and vocal range.

For more information, telephone Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or email vblaylock@eccc.edu.

ECCC hosts student art exhibit

East Central Community College's Art Department will host a student art exhibition through Friday, May 1 in the Vickers Fine Arts Center in Decatur.

The exhibit will feature drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture and designs by EC students.

An opening reception, with refreshments by the college's Culinary Arts Department, will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. today (Thursday) in the arts center. The public is invited.

Students featured in the exhibit and their hometowns include Kelly Dixon of Carthage, and Clay Summers-Jones, Walnut Grove.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓✓✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

Winston County Journal ✓

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of April 19, 2018

Carthaginian ____

Clarion-Ledger ____

Meridian Star ____

Neshoba Democrat ____

Newton Appeal ____

Scott County Times ____

Spirit of Morton ____

Winston County Journal ✓✓

Other Publications ____

ECCC students selected for Percussive Arts Society

East Central Community College students Caleb Franklin of Morton and Anna Girling of Carthage were recently selected to participate in the Mississippi Percussive Arts Society All-Star Ensemble, announced Ed Girling, assistant director of bands and percussion instructor.

The All-Star Ensemble, composed of the top high school, community college, and university percussion students from the state of Mississippi, will perform a concert at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at the Percussive Arts Society's "Day of Percussion" at Hinds Community College in Raymond.

"This is a tremendous honor for both of these students to interact with other fine percussion students and professors," Girling said. "They will receive instruction from guest artists and perform a variety of new music."

The public is invited to attend the event, which will be held at the Vashti Muse Band Hall on the Raymond campus. Registration begins at 9 a.m. General admission is $15 and members of the Percussive Arts Society will be admitted for $5.

WEEK OF April 12, 2015

ECCC students win state honors

East Central Community College workforce education students won honors at the Mississippi SkillsUSA Competition in Jackson.

First place award-winners and their areas of competition included:

- Blake Faulkner of Carthage, carpentry;
- William Milner of Lena, electrical construction wiring;
- Chad Simoneau of Louin, plmbing;
- Jay Riser of Forest, cabinet making;
- Asif Zaffar of Philadelphia, sheet metal.

First-place winners will represent Mississippi at the National SkillsUSA Competition June 22-27, in Louisville, Ky.

Matthew Bishop of Carthage won a second place award in heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Third place award-winners and their areas of competition include:

- Enoc Reynoso of Carthage, food and beverage service;
- Stephen Armstrong of Decatur, diesel technology;
- Jason Forrest, technical drafting, of Decatur;
- Justin Winstead of Union, motorcycle service technology;
- Wally Triplett of Nanih Waiya, industrial motor control;
- Jennings Davis of Louisville, CNC milling;
- Austin Mize of Newton, commercial baking.

For more information, telephone Wayne Eason, director of workforce education, at 601-635-6211 or e-mail weason@eccc.edu.

Little ads get
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THE CLASSIFIEDS
601-267-4501

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 12, 2015

Wall 0' Sound to host 'Night o' Jazz'

From school reports

The East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Band Department will present "Night O' Jazz" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center Auditorium on the Decatur campus.

ECCC's Jazz Band, led by assistant director of bands Ed Girling, will perform the following selections of jazz standards and pop music: "Happy" by Pharrell Williams; "In the Stone" by Earth, Wind, and Fire; "Love Potion No. 9" by The Clovers; "Six String Shuffle;" "Arnge Drank;" "Can't Buy Me Love" by the Beatles; "Summertime" by George Gershwin; "The Lady is a Tramp" by Rodgers and Hart; "In the Mood" by Glenn Miller; "Cold Duck Time," "Soul Bossa Nova;" "25 or 6 to 4" by Chicago; "Fowl Play;" and "Sing, Sing, Sing" by Louis Prima.

There is no charge for admission and the public is invited to attend.

For more information, contact Hunter Corhern, ECCC director of bands, at 601-635-6123 or email hcorhern@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF April 5, 2015

Members of the East Central Community College award-winning The Tom-Tom staff display some of the awards they received at the O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 26 at the Mississippi Craft Center in Ridgeland. Shown are, front row, from left, Madison Barnett of Noxapater, editor; and Hannah May of Little Rock, design editor; and back row, Wil Johnson of Morton; Allison Johnson, opinions editor, and Macken'z Smith, cartoonist, both of Philadelphia; and ECCC Publications Coordinator Gennie Taylor of Forest.

ECCC student newspaper staff receives top state awards

East Central Community College's student newspaper, The Tom-Tom, received 11 awards, including second place in General Excellence, the top award granted for student newspapers, in the 2015 Mississippi Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest Student Division for Community Colleges.

The awards were presented at the annual O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 26 at the Mississippi Craft Center in Ridgeland.

The Tom-Tom received a total of three first place, four second place, and four third place awards in the annual competition.

In the Better Newspaper Competition, members of The Tom-Tom staff earned the following awards:

• First place in General Interest Column for Allison Johnson, a sophomore from Philadelphia and The Tom-Tom opinions editor.

• First place in Cartoon for Claire Griffin, a May 2014 graduate from Decatur.

• First place in Website for The Tom-Tom staff.

• Second place in General Excellence—The Tom-Tom staff.

• Second place in General Interest Column for Madison Herrington, a sophomore from Union.

• Second place in Design for Hannah May, a freshman from Little Rock and design editor.

• Second place in Front Page for The Tom-Tom staff.

• Third place in General News Story for Madison Barnett, a sophomore from Noxapater and editor.

• Third place in Editorials for Barnett.

• Third place in Single Advertisement for The Tom-Tom staff.

• Third place in Miscellaneous Advertisement for The Tom-Tom staff.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ___

NEWTON COUNTY ___

SPIRIT OF MORTON ___

MERIDIAN STAR ___

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ___

CLARION-LEDGER ___

WEEK OF March 29 ~~April 1~~, 2015

Nursing Scholarship established at ECCC

The Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (M-OADN) and ASNEC Scholarship was recently established at East Central Community College in Decatur.

The new scholarship was established in January 2015 to honor the profession of nursing, specifically the associate degree nurse.

M-OADN is a state organization primarily interested in working to retain the registered nurse title and the scope of practice for the associate degree nurse. ASNEC is the Association of Student Nurses at East Central Community College. M-OADN and ASNEC work together to promote agency participation and professionalism of the associate degree nurse at East Central Community College.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to the president of ASNEC.

Community Easter sunrise service planned in Decatur

Decatur United Methodist Church will host a community Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m., Sunday, April 5, at the pavilion near the ECCC walking track on the north side of the campus. The Rev. Bruce Taylor will bring the message. After the service, Boy Scout Troop 46 will sponsor a pancake breakfast at 7:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Decatur UMC. Donations will be accepted for the Scout fundraiser.

EDC

Rose receives scholarship

Blain Rose of Hickory is the recipient of a BankPlus Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Rose

A sophomore business major, Rose is a 2013 graduate of Newton County Academy.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ////

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-L GER _____

WEEK OF March 22, 2015

2015 ALL-MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

State's Top Scholars Honored at Luncheon

All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team Named

Fifty-seven Mississippi community and junior college students have been named to the All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team. The All-Mississippi Academic Team recognizes the scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in community and junior colleges across the state of Mississippi. Fifteen students have been named to the First Team and each will receive a $1,000 scholarship. The All-Mississippi Academic Team will be honored on Wednesday, March 25, at the State Capitol by the Mississippi Legislature, and will be guests of honor at a luncheon held at the Jackson Convention Complex. Senator Terry C. Burton will serve as master of ceremonies.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team program is coordinated by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Mississippi Community College Board and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Dr. Gary Spears, President, Northwest Mississippi Community College, serves as program chairman.

All-Mississippi Academic Team members were selected following several rounds of judging. Judges included education and business leaders from the Metro-Jackson area and a distinguished panel of representatives from federal agencies and national education associations based in Washington, D.C.

ACADEMIC TEAM

Students named to the All-Mississippi Academic Team compete for placement on the national All-USA Community College Academic Team, sponsored by Follett Higher Education Group and presented by *USA TODAY* with additional support provided by the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa. Twenty students named to the national All-USA Community College Academic Team will be featured in a special edition wrap that will accompany the April 20th issue of *USA TODAY*, and students will receive $100,000 in scholarships. This year, over 1,700 nominations were received for the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition. Mississippi ranks in the top six states in the nation having students named to the national All-USA Community College Academic Team.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team Corporate Sponsors include: **Platinum Level:** The Clarion Ledger; **Gold Level:** Hederman Brothers Printing; **Silver Level:** Atmos Energy Corporation, Entergy Mississippi, Inc., Renasant Bank, Trustmark National Bank and Valley Services, Inc.; **Bronze Level:** Booneville Rotary Club, Farmers & Merchants Bank and Hancock Bank.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team Four-Year College and University Sponsors include: Alcorn State University, Belhaven University, Delta State University, Jackson State University, Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, University of Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University.

Kristen Gordy
East Central Community College
Decatur Campus
Major: Liberal Arts
Career Goal: Marriage and Family Counselor
Accomplishments: Fellowship Vice President of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Warrior Corps Student Recruiter, Mission Worker, Youth Group Sunday School Teacher, Anne Burks Phi Theta Kappa Scholar, ACT Scholar and the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant Recipient.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER ✓

Date of March 12, 2015

Winston County Journal

www.winstoncountyjournal.com

East Central Community College's rock-n-roll band, "The Collegians," will present its annual spring campus concert at 7 p.m. Monday, April 13, in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. The popular group will perform hits by Bruno Mars, Scorpions, Ed Sheeran, Meghan Trainor, Kelly Clarkson and many more. There is no charge for admission and the public is invited to attend. Pictured are (kneeling, from left) technician Acea Ange of Meridian; vocalists Garrett McDill of Conehatta, Ryan Godwin of Newton and Nick Stewart of Philadelphia; and technicians Justin Moore of Kosciusko and Michael Buntyn of Newton; (second row, from left) technicians Patrick Embrey of Hickory, Hannah Mitchell of Meridian, and Jeremy Collins of Forest; auxiliary percussionist Matt Mason of Union; vocalists Tallie Johnston of Lake, Cara Jackson of Louisville and Anna Wells of Noxapater; keyboardist Anna Girling of Carthage; director/guitarist Chas Evans and technicians Ben Avera of Hickory and Ryan McClendon of Forest; and (top row, from left) trombonist Evan Derrick of Morton, saxophonist Zach Peden of Philadelphia, drummer Chris Kelley of Newton, trumpeter Nina LaBue of Conehatta, guitarist Stephen Stewart of Decatur, trumpeter Daniela Vargas of Morton, bass guitarist Houston Martin of Union and technician Ryan Packer of Decatur. (EC Photo)

Appeared in:

		Newton Appeal	
Carthaginian		Scott County Times	
Clarion-Ledger		Spirit of Morton	✓
Meridian Star		Winston County Journal	✓
Neshoba Democrat		Other Publications	

WEEK OF March 22, 2015

ECCC Collegians to present Spring concert April 13

East Central Community College's rock-n-roll band, "The Collegians," will present its annual spring campus concert at 7 p.m. Monday, April 13, in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus.

The popular group will perform hits by Bruno Mars, Scorpions, Ed Sheeran, Meghan Trainor, Kelly Clarkson and many more.

There is no charge for admission and the public is invited to attend.

Members include vocalists Garrett McDill of Conehatta, Ryan Godwin of Newton, Nick Stewart of Philadelphia, Tallie Johnston of Lake, Cara Jackson of Louisville and Anna Wells of Noxapater; auxiliary percussionist Matt Mason of Union; keyboardist Anna Girling of Carthage; trombonist Evan Derrick of Morton; saxophonist Zach Peden of Philadelphia; drummer Chris Kelley of Newton; trumpeters Nina LaBue of Conehatta and Daniela Vargas of Morton; guitarist Stephen Stewart of Decatur; bass guitarist Houston Martin of Union; and technicians Acea Ange and Hannah Mitchell, both of Meridian, Justin Moore of Kosciusko, Michael Buntyn of Newton, Patrick Embrey and Ben Avera, both of Hickory, Jeremy Collins and Ryan McClendon, both of Forest, and Ryan Packer of Decatur.

ECCC music instructor Chas Evans serves as director/guitarist. For more information contact Evans at 601-635-6227. The email is cevans@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ✓

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 22, 2015

ECCC Nursing Curriculum to change models beginning with fall 2015 classes

A curriculum change for East Central Community College's Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs was recently adopted, moving from the current "medical model" to a newly designed "concept model."

As a result of the changes, new admission requirements for the Associate Degree Nursing program were also approved and are available on the college website www.eccc.edu/health-care-education.

Applications for Fall 2015 classes are also available on the website and must be received with all documentation by Monday, June 1, 2015. Successful candidates will be notified by June 5.

"The curriculum change will link nursing content together in order to enhance understanding of nursing concepts," said Denita Thomas, ECCC Dean of Healthcare Education. "It is a streamlined curriculum which better prepares today's nurse to succeed in our ever-evolving healthcare industry."

With the ongoing curriculum changes, the program of study has not yet been established, but upon final approval, it will be emailed to each applicant and available on the college website.

patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, use of evidence-based practice, continuous quality improvement, focus on safety, increased use of informatics and new roles for nurses.

Proposed changes in nursing education are student-centered learning and engagement, partnerships in the educational process, improved clinical reasoning/critical thinking, use of critical thinking in arts and sciences and infusion of technology.

"Transitioning to the concept-based curriculum allows ECCC to be at the forefront of these national changes in nursing and nursing education," Thomas said.

Thomas said all nursing programs in Mississippi have either completely transitioned or are in transition to a concept-based curriculum, which is a form of critical thinking in which students organize and categorize content using concepts. It does not rely on memorization, but instead stresses the understanding of the altered concepts in patient care scenarios.

"Conceptual learning challenges students to think at more advanced levels and to relate previously learned concepts to new learning outcomes," she added.

For more information, contact Thomas at 601-635-6294 or email dthomas@eccc.edu.

Nursing Scholarship Established

The Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (M-OADN) and ASNEC Scholarship was recently established at East Central Community College in Decatur. The new scholarship was established in January 2015 to honor the profession of nursing, specifically the associate degree nurse.

M-OADN is a state organization primarily interested in working to retain the registered nurse title and the scope of practice for the associate degree nurse.

Thomas said national leaders of medicine, nursing and nursing education published reports calling for transformation in nursing education as early as 2010.

The emphasis of change in nursing is for

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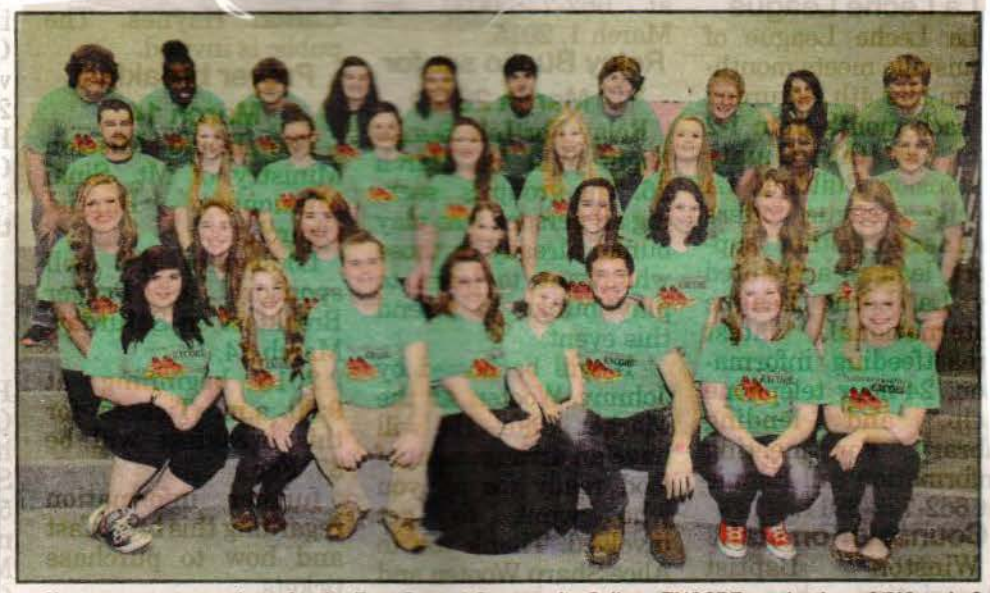
www.winstoncountyjournal.com

March 2, 2015

March 24-28



Above are cast members for the East Central Community College ENCORE production of "Wizard of Oz" scheduled March 24-28 in the Vickers Fine Arts Center Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Matinees are scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, March 24, 25 and 27. Evening performances begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26 through Saturday, March 28. Tickets are $10 and may be purchased by calling the College switchboard at 601-635-6215 or 1-877-462-3222, ext. 215. Makenzie Rowzee (front row, second from left) of Hickory and Tallie Johnston (front row, fourth from left) of Lake will share the lead role of Dorothy. Pictured are (front row, from left) Anna Girling of Carthage, Rowzee, Kirk Griffin of Decatur, Johnston, Tate Emmons of Lake, Houston Martin of Edinburg, Rachel Clay of Lake and Haleigh West of Hickory; (second row, from left) Mackenzie Gannon, Sarah Freeman, Courtney Tillman and Rebecca Tero, all of Decatur; Cady Smith of Philadelphia, Katie Bradley of Conehatta, Lindsay Hedge of Forest and Faith Emmons of Lake; (third row, from left) Dustin Fisher of Lake, Danielle Gregory of Little Rock, Courtney Williams of Hickory, Kristen Gordy and Kimberly Harrison, both of Forest; Katherine Fortenberry of Raleigh, Hannah Mitchell of Meridian, Kaishanna Young of Philadelphia and Bristol Buffington of Louisville; and (back row, from left) Brad Taylor of Stratton, Charles Taylor and Sam Mitchell, both of Decatur; Kimbelry Talbert of Philadelphia, Madison Barnett of Noxapater, Stephen Stewart and David Wilson, both of Decatur; Zachary Emmons of Lake, Sara Thorne of Noxapater and Anthony Emmons of Lake. For more information, contact Encore director Natalie Emmons at 601-635-6347 or email nemmons@eccc.edu. (EC Photo)

Appeared in:

Carthaginian		Newton Appeal	✓
Clarion-Ledger		Scott County Times	
Meridian Star	✓	Spirit of Morton	
Neshoba Democrat	✓	Winston County Journal	✓
		Other Publications	

WEEK OF March 8, 2015

Winston County Journal

ECCC to present 'Wizard of Oz'

From press reports

East Central Community College's Encore performers will present their spring musical selection, "Wizard of Oz," at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 26 through Saturday, March 28, in the Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Matinees are scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, March 24, 25 and 27.

Tickets are $10 and may be purchased by calling the College switchboard at 601-635-6215 or 1-877-462-3222, ext. 215.

Natalie Emmons, who is serving her second year as "Encore" director, said, "In this charming film based on the popular L. Frank Baum stories, Dorothy and her dog, Toto, are caught in a tornado's path and somehow end up in the land of Oz.

"Here she meets some memorable friends and foes in her journey to meet the Wizard of Oz, who everyone says can help her return home and possibly grant her new friends their goals of a brain, heart and courage."

Makenzie Rowzee of Hickory and Tallie Johnston of Lake will share the lead role of Dorothy.

Additional cast members and their respective hometowns include Jonathan Hodge (Scarecrow), Rachel Clay (Glinda the Good Witch), Zachary Emmons (Mayor of Munchkin City) and Anthony Emmons (Coroner of Munchkin City), all of Lake; Kirk Griffin (Tin Man), Stephen Stewart (Hunk the Human Scarecrow), Sam Mitchell (Hickory the Human Tin Man), Courtney Tillman (Aunt Em) and David Wilson (Professor Marvel), all of Decatur; Houston Martin (Lion), Edinburg; Dee Jay Rollison (Zeke the Human Lion), Conehatta; Matt Mason (Uncle Henry), Union; Bristol Buffington (Misses Gulch), Louisville; Haleigh West (Glinda the Good Witch), Hickory; Anna Girling (The Wicked Witch), Carthage; Katie Forteberry (Doorkeep of Emerald City), Raleigh; and Brad Taylor (Wizard of Oz), Stratton.

Playing the parts of Munchkins/Ozians are Kimberly Talbert, Courtney Hamilton and Cady Smith, all of Philadelphia; Kimberly Harrison, Kristen Gordy, and Lindsay Hedge, all of Forest; Madison Barnett of Noxapater; Danielle Gregory of Little Rock; Hannah Mitchell of Meridian; Courtney Williams of Hickory; Rebecca Tero and Mackenzie Gannon, both of Decatur; and Katie Bradley of Conehatta.

The Flying Monkeys will be played by Hannah Mitchell of Meridian; Faith Emmons and Tyler Richardson, both of Lake; and Sara Thorne of Noxapater.

Casted as Guards are Courtney Tillman, David Wilson, Stephen Stewart, Sam Mitchell, Alana Kron and Sarah Freeman, all of Decatur; Matt Mason, Union; and Greyson Dye, Carthage.

Playing the part of the Trees are Kaishanna Young of Philadlephia and Mary Levine of Louisville.

Poppies will be played by Courtney Hamilton and Cady Smith, both of Philadelphia; Hannah Mitchell of Meridian, Katie Bradley of Conehatta, Mackenzie Gannon of Decatur, Danielle Gregory of Little Rock, Lindsay Hedge of Forest and Courtney Williams of Hickory.

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

MOCRAT ✓

SOUTH COUNTY TIMES

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ✓

CLARION LEDGER

Week of March 8, 2015

Most beautiful, most handsome at ECCC

Kelly Covert of Collinsville and Caleb Brown of Philadelphia were chosen Most Beautiful and Most Handsome, respectively, at East Central Community College during the annual Beauty Pageant held Tuesday, Feb. 24 on the Decatur campus. (EC PHOTO)

Appeared in:

Newton Appeal ✓

Carthaginian _____

Scott County Times _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Spirit of Morton _____

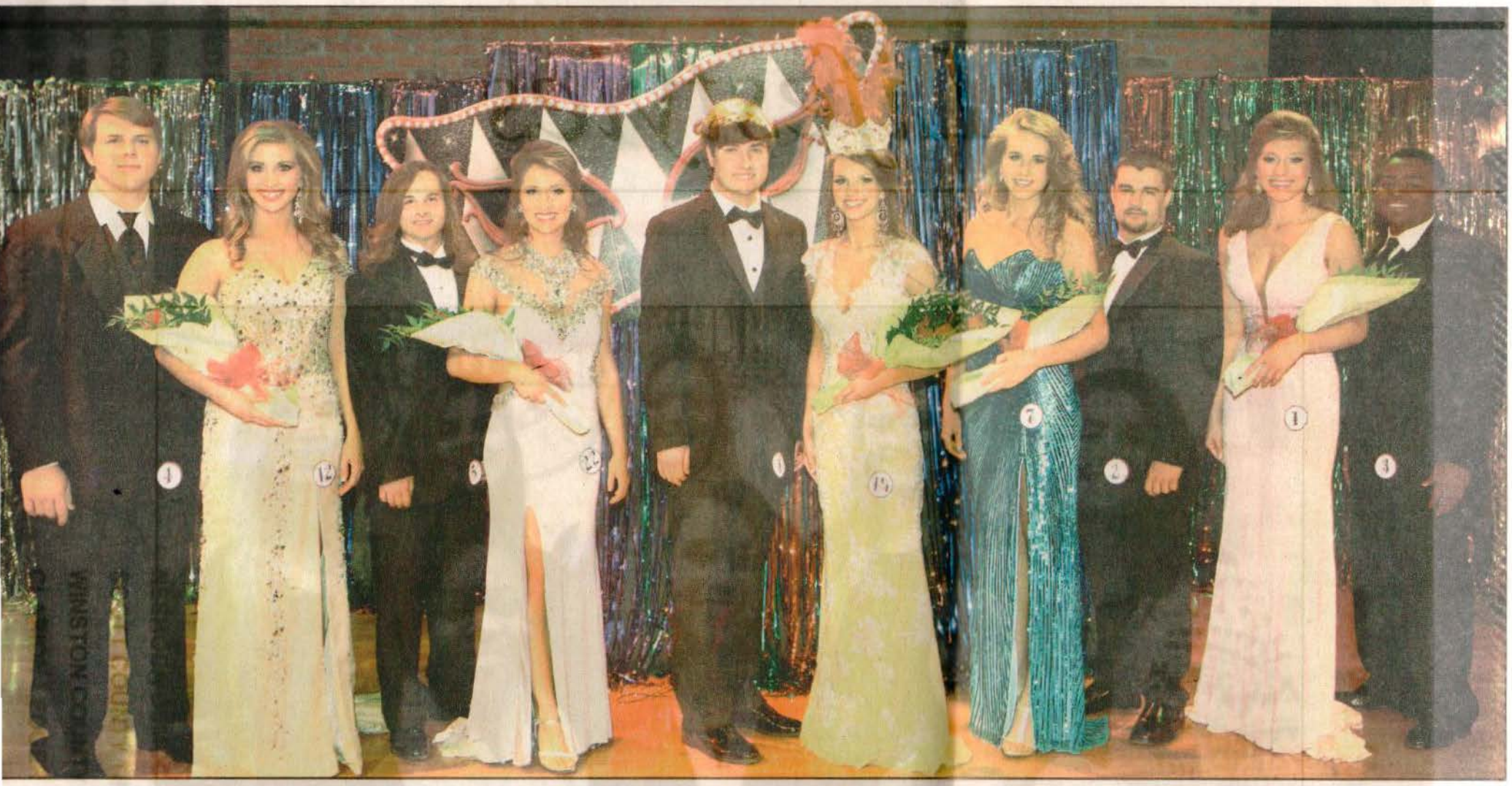
Meridian Star _____

Winston County Journal _____

Neshoba Democrat ✓

Other Publications _____

The Neshoba Democrat, Philadelphia, Miss., March 11, 2015



:CC Beauties and Beaus

e East Central Community College students were selected beauties and beaus dur-
ne annual Beauty Pageant held Tuesday, Feb, 24 on the Decatur campus. Winners
their respective hometowns are, from left, beau Caleb Thomas of Decatur; beauty
n Sellers of Ellisville; beau Greyson William Dye of Carthage; beauty Kaley Bufkin of Decatur; Most Handsome Caleb Brown of Philadelphia; Most Beautiful Kelly Covert of Collinsville; beauty Mikayla May of Chunky; beau Dustin Fisher of Lake; beauty Macken'z Smith of Philadelphia and beau Albert McDougle of Union. (EC PHOTO)

WEEK OF March 1, 2015

East Central plans quilt program

Carol Vickers will present "The Culture of a Community as Reflected in its Quilts" Wednesday, March 18, at East Central Community College at 1 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

The program is sponsored in part by the Mississippi Humanities Council and is the next installment in the college's Cultural Arts Series.

The public is invited and there is no charge to attend. For more information, telephone Vicki Blaylock, at 601-635-6225, e-mail vblaylock@eccc.edu or visit eccc.edu/the-east-central-cultural-arts-series.

ECCC honors

Shelly Dowell of Lena, left, was selected for the Top 10 during the annual beauty pageant at East Central Community College, while Greyson William Dye of Carthage was selected as a beau.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓✓

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SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 1, 2013

ECCC establishes Muse Scholarship

Among the most recent scholarships established at East Central Community College is the Dr. Vernon Clyde and Vashti Muse Endowed Scholarship.

It was among several approved by the College's Board of Trustees at its February meeting.

Dr. Vernon Clyde Muse devoted his life to education and has served as president of Hinds Community College since 1978.

He is a graduate of Sebastopol High School, East Central Junior College, Delta State University and received master's and doctoral degrees from Mississippi State University.

He began his career at Canton High School as a science teacher and coach.

He later served as a high school principal and then became assistant superintendent of education for the Starkville Municipal Separate School District.

He also held positions as superintendent of education for both the Meridian Municipal Separate School District and Hinds County Public Schools.

Mrs. Muse also devoted her life to education, serving in the Starkville, Hinds County and Lauderdale County school systems prior to joining the Hinds Community College staff in 1980.

She taught full-time at Hinds from 1980 until retirement in 2002.

In 2006 the Mississippi Association for Developmental Education named its most prestigious award in her honor.

She received various local and national awards and in April 2010, the Mississippi Legislature presented a joint resolution recognizing Mrs. Muse for her tremendous impact on education in the state of Mississippi.

The Muse Scholarship will be awarded each year to a student who meets the following criteria:

- A full-time ECCC student pursuing an educational degree (academic or career/technical field) at any location of the ECCC district;
- Maintain full-time status (enrolled in 15 or more hours per semester and successfully completing a minimum of 12 hours per semester);
- Have a 2.5 or better high school and/or ECCC grade point average; and
- Be free of any disciplinary problems.

No part of the endowment corpus will be used for the scholarship award. Scholarship recipients will be selected by the ECCC Scholarship Committee.

paid.

ECCC plans alumni day on April 11

East Central Community College will host Spring Alumni Day Saturday, April 11, in Decatur.

The free event will begin at 10 a.m. at Bailey Stadium and will include activities for the entire family, including a football team scrimmage, alumni soccer games, music, inflatables and wiffle ball for youngsters.

A picnic lunch, including a crawfish boil, hamburgers, sausage dogs and more will be served at 12:30 p.m.

Activities will conclude as the Diamond Warrior baseball team faces Northeast Mississippi Community College in a 2 p.m. doubleheader.

For more information telephone Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, Executive Director for Foundation and Alumni Relations, at 601-635-6327 or e-mail sholling@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

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WEEK OF March 1, 2015

ECCC to Host JSU Jazz Band

Special to The Star

DECATUR – As part of the inaugural season of East Central Community College's Cultural Arts Series, the Fine Arts Department will host the Jackson State University Jazz Ensemble Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Huff Auditorium on campus.

The public is invited and there is no charge to attend.

The JSU Ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Russell Thomas Jr., professor of music and Director of Jazz Education, and is made up of both music and non- music majors and includes students from across the United States.

The group has received many honors and awards and has performed at various venues throughout the region, including the New Orleans Heritage and Jazz Festival.

Many internationally know jazz personalities have been featured in concert with the JSU Ensemble. Among the most noteworthy have been the Count Basie Orchestra and Dizzy Gillespie.

The Cultural Arts series began as a way to bring performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community, according to Vicki Blaylock, ECCC Fine Arts Department Chair.

For more information, contact Blaylock at (601) 635-6225 or e-mail vblaylock@eccc.edu or visit www.eccc.edu/the-east-central-cultural-arts-series.

APPEARED IN:

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Week of Feb. 22, 2014

These members of the East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Band were recently selected to participate in the 2015 Mississippi Community/Junior College All-State Band Clinic, which was held Feb. 5-7 at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Approximately 60 students from around the state participated in the annual event. Honorees and their respective instruments and high schools are, front row from left, Anna Girling, mallets, of Leake Central; Louise Berryhill, flute, Nina LaBue, trumpet, and Duster Allgood, clarinet, all of Newton County; second row from left, Jacolby Jenkins, percussion, and Zach Peden, alto sax, both of Neshoba Central; Danielle Horne, flute, of Union; Austin Anderton, trombone, of Leake Central; and Kayla Sudduth, euphonium, of Morton; and back row from left, Brittney Taylor, clarinet, of Lake; Taylor Cornelison, horn, Caleb Franklin, percussion, and Evan Derrick, trombone, all of Morton; and Josh Finley, trombone, of Newton County. Hunter Corhern serves as director of bands and Ed Girling is assistant director.

EC photo

Appeared in:

Newton Appeal ✓

Carthaginian _____

Scott County Times _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Spirit of Morton ✓

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People

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WEEK OF

EC's Wall O' Sound students selected

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

to All-State Band

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES

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WEEK OF Feb. 22, 2015

ECCC cheerleaders

ECCC Sophomore Cheerleaders Honored

These sophomore cheerleaders at East Central Community College received special recognition during the season-ending basketball games held Monday, Feb. 16 in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building on the Decatur campus. Honorees and their respective high schools include (front row, from left) Katlyn Patrick, Forest; Warner Parkes, Nanih Waiya; Adam Porter, Newton County; and Hunter Brown, Leake Academy; and (standing, from left) Haleigh West, Newton County; Lauren Coward, Neshoba Central; Makenzie Rowzee and Alana Kron, both of Newton County; and Lauren Peterson, Forest. Also pictured is cheer coach Pauline Karcher. (EC Photo)

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Submitted photo

Warner Parkes of Nanih Waiya, left, and Mallory Turner of Collinsville.

Parkes, Turner selected Mr. and Miss ECCC

Special to The Star

Warner Parkes of Nanih Waiya and Mallory Turner of Collinsville were recently selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College by a vote of the student body.

Warner Parkes

A 2013 graduate of Nanih Waiya Attendance Center, Parkes is an active part of East Central's student body participating in various campus organizations and clubs as well as being a member of two of ECCC's athletic teams.

He is a member of Warrior Corps, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Phi Theta Kappa, President's Council and is an officer for the Student Body Association. He is a member of the Warrior Cheerleader Squad and is a manager for the Warrior basketball teams. Parkes said his hangout spot on campus is Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

"When I am not studying or attending class, I am helping Coach (Crandall) Porter and his basketball team #Belikea-Giraffe"

Parkes said he loves EC because of its size and student/teacher ratio.

"It is easy to know every face you see and all the teachers remember your name," he said.

Participating in intramural sports is one of th campus activities Parke said he enjoys most. His fondest memory of EC was during his sophomore year playing intramural softball.

"We had (team) shirt made that said "Barn Boys" (in reference to Parkes' off-campus residence) and we were actu ally pretty decent."

Parkes is an optometr major. The Dean's and President's lists scholar said he enjoys playing basketball and fishing in his spare time.

After receiving his associate's degree at Eas Central, Parkes said he plans to continue his education at the Mississippi State University.

Parkes is the son of Tammy and Luke Parkes of Nanih Waiya.

Mallory Turner

A 2013 graduate of West Lauderdale High School, Mallory Turner is a campus leader and athlete who says she treasures the relationships she has made while attending East Central the most.

As a member of the Lady Warrior softball team, Turner can most often be found at the softball field; however, it is during the teams' weekly Bible study that she said is her favorite on-campus activity.

experience as a team," Turner said.

Even though Turner focuses on her sport, she still makes time for her academics and campus leadership roles. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Baptist Student Union, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and an officer of the Student Body Association.

Turner was selected class vice president, Clas Favorite, homecoming maid and received the Softball award her freshman year. Her sophomore year, she was selected homecoming maid. Turner said serving on the homecoming courts her freshman and sophomore years are some of her favorite memories of her years at ECCC.

Turner said she is most inspired by Lady Warrior softball head coach Kristin Chaney.

"On Dec. 7, Coach Chaney was saved and has completely been living for Christ since," Turner said. "It is so awesome to have a coach whc loves the Lord."

Turner is a nursing major and plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi.

She said in her free time she enjoys playing Ultimate games such as Frisbee, Ninja and Heads-Up.

Turner is the daughter

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WEEK OF Feb. 15, 2015

Attend legislative function

East Central Community College students visiting with area legislators at the recent MACJC Legislative Appreciation Day in Jackson include, sophomores, second through fourth from left, Leah Ferguson of Neshoba Central, Warner Parkes of Nanih Waiya and Emily Cook of Leake Central, with Rep. Scott Bounds, left, of Philadelphia and Rep. Randy Rushing of Decatur.

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WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

EC students receive CPR training, certificates

East Central Community College first aid instructor Scott Hill, far right, teaches CPR techniques to students, pictured from left, Matt Sykes of Columbus, Tyler Armistad of Caledonia and Matt Ferguson of Lake. Not pictured is Donna Pace with Pioneer Hospital in Newton who also provided instruction in the American Heart Association training course and later tested students for CPR certification.

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WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

Spirit of Morton

Receive First Chair Honors During ECCC Band Clinic

Above are participants who received first chair, first band honors during the East Central Community College 37th annual District Band Clinic held recently on the Decatur campus. Honorees and their respective schools include (front row, from left) Sydney Kennedy (horn), Newton County; Daisy Hernandez (flute), Morton; Tori Fergason (mallets) and Alex Cleveland (trumpet), both of Newton County; (second row, from left) Landon Bounds (baritone saxophone), Newton County; Brittany Watkins (clarinet) and Sarah Beth Pope (alto saxophone), all of Neshoba Central; Thomas Gaddis (tenor saxophone), Newton County; Kaitlyn Morris (oboe), Sebastopol; and Cami Goodin (bass clarinet), Neshoba Central; and (back row, from left) Zane McElhenney (percussion), Union; Cole Atkison (bass), Leake Central; Taylor Goss (euphonium), Morton; and Tyler Greer (trombone), Philadelphia. Not pictured is Caleb Jones (tuba), Newton County. The Wall O' Sound Band welcomed 206 area students to the two-day clinic which is comprised of first, second and third bands. Activities concluded with a concert in Huff Auditorium. Clinicians for the event included Dr. Ken Bodiford of Jacksonville, Ala.; Mark Dickerson of Clinton and Whitney Cook Walker of Sumrall. Hunter Corhern serves as ECCC Director of Bands. Ed Girling serves as Assistant Director of ECCC bands. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF Feb. 8, 2015

2 students wins first band spots

Two area students won first chair honors during East Central Community College's District Band Clinic.

Cole Atkison (bass), Leake Central High School, and Kaitlyn Morris (oboe), Sebastopol High School, placed in the first band during the 37th annual event.

ECCC's Wall O' Sound Band welcomed 206 area students to the two-day clinic which is comprised of first, second and third bands.

Activities concluded with a concert in Huff Auditorium.

Hunter Corhern serves as ECCC director of bands. Ed Girling serves as assistant director of ECCC bands.

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OF Feb. 8, 2015

ECCC Cultural Arts Series to present works by Gary Walters Feb. 17

Special to The Star

DECATUR – As part of the inaugural season of East Central Community College's Cultural Arts Series, the Fine Arts Department will host visual artist Gary Walters on Feb.17.

Walters will present a "gallery talk" at 2 p.m. in the lobby of Vickers Fine Arts Center on campus.

The public is invited and there is no charge to attend.

The artist's work will hang in the lobby of Vickers Fine Arts Center Feb. 16-March 6, and is available for public viewing from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday though Friday.

Walters is a Christian artist and a native of Jackson. He and his wife, Joan, have four children, Doug, Daniel, Jill and Jacob, and seven grandchildren. Walters attended Hinds Junior College, where he was selected most outstanding art student, and received bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi College.

During the past 45 years, Walters has had numerous one-man shows. He has also taught art for Mississippi College, Mississippi State University, Hinds Community College, Belhaven University and many workshops on painting. In 1993, he was honored as the Art Alumnus of the Year for Mississippi College.

He is represented in many public and private collections throughout the United States and several foreign countries. Walters has been featured in Mississippi Magazine, Delta Magazine, The Clarion Ledger, Scope Magazine, WLBT, VIP Magazine and others.

Quail Ridge Press published Gary's book Gary Walters: Delta Dreamin' in October 2008. Gary was honored in 2009, by the Mississippi State Senate with a concurrent resolution for bringing honor to the State of Mississippi through his paintings and his book. In 2010, Gary was honored by his high school, Deer Park High School, in Deer Park, Texas, by being inducted into the Felton F. Waggoner Hall of Honor.

The Cultural Arts series began as a way to bring performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community, according to Vicki Blaylock, ECCC Fine Arts Department Chair.

"Throughout the years, there have been visiting artists come to East Central and perform for our music majors. I couldn't help but notice the enthusiasm and interest that our students displayed when a visiting artist performed for them. I hope through the effort of the Cultural Arts Series we can afford all the students at East Central, not just the music majors, an opportunity to enhance their education by providing these cultural opportunities," Blaylock said.

Image by Gary Walters

For more information, contact Vicki Blaylock at (601) 635-6225 or e-mail - vblaylock@eccc.edu.

Submitted photo

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WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

ECCC Chooses Class Favorites

The favorites for freshman and sophomore classes of 2014-15 have been announced for East Central Community College in Decatur, following a recent student body election. Those elected include: (front row, from left) sophomores Leah Ferguson of Philadelphia; and Colton Horne of Noxapater; (second row, from left) sophomores Nikki Triplett of Forest; Anna Katherine Nowell of Philadelphia; Zachary Allen of Louisville and Ben Cooley of Hattiesburg; (third row, from left) freshman Kaylee Yates of Decatur; sophomore Cara Jackson and freshman Clay Jackson, both of Louisville; and sophomore Caleb Stallings of Enterprise; and (back row, from left) freshmen Kaley Bufkin of Decatur; Skylar Davidson of Morton; Devin Skinner of Philadelphia and Chandler Powell of Forest. (EC PHOTO)

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WEEK OF Feb. 1, 2015

2014-15 ECCC Collegians announced

DECATUR — Members of the 2014-2015 Collegians rock-n-roll band at East Central Community College members were recently announced.

Members from Scott County include: (vocalists) Garrett McDill, Sebastopol; and Tallie Johnston, a homeschooler from Lake; (horn section members) Daniella Vargas, trumpet, Morton; and technicians, Ryan McClendon, Forest; and Jeremy Collins, Scott Central.

For more information, contact Chris Evans at (601) 635-6227 or email cevans@eccc.edu.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

ECCC BRIEFS

ECCC plans Black History Month program on February 25

DECATUR — East Central Community College will hold its annual Black History Month Program Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Activities begin at 7 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium.

There is no charge for admission.

The Rev. Stan Jones, pastor of Jerusalem Temple in Philadelphia, will serve as guest speaker.

Special music will be provided by The Gospel Song Birds of Meridian.

The ECCC Gospel Choir sponsors the Black History Program and will also perform.

Mrs. Brenda Johnson serves as gospel choir sponsor.

For more information, contact Johnson at (601) 635-2111.

Registration opens for second spring term at East Central

DECATUR — It's not too late to register for classes at East Central Community College for the Spring Intensive Term II session, which begins March 2, and Spring Intensive Term II online session which begins March 16.

The last day to register for traditional classes is Tuesday, March 3.

Course offerings on the Decatur campus include English Composition I, English Composition II, College Algebra and Calculus II.

English Composition II will be offered at the Forest/Scott County Career and Technology Center, Leake County Career-Technical Center and the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Career-Technical Center.

Online registration ends Friday, March 13.

Online classes offered include Nutrition, Human Growth and Development, English Composition II, Career Exploration, College Study Skills, College Algebra, Music Appreciation, Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Jesus and the Gospels, Introduction to Philosophy, General Psychology, Introduction to Sociology, and Marriage and Family. Other online courses may be available as needed.

For more information, contact Student Services at 601-635-6205. The e-mail is rlee@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF Jan. 18, 2015

May is example of 'miracle'

Brianna May on path to full recovery from near fatal accident

By CHRIS ALLEN BAKER
cbaker@sctonline.net

SEBASTOPOL — Just a month ago, Brianna May had started a new job and was looking forward to a promising start into adulthood before a near fatal accident came extremely close to ending her young life.

In the past several weeks, May has become known as a "miracle" as the town of Sebastopol, surrounding communities and beyond rallied around her progress from near death to likely a full recovery.

"I call her my miracle baby because it is truly through prayer and faith that I believe she has come this far," said her mother, Shanna Cumberland. "I believe she is a true miracle because this is an example of what God can do."

May

May, 20, a graduate of Sebastopol High School, and daughter of Shanna and Scoot Cumberland, had completed beauty school through East Central Community College and had just started a job at Community Bank in Forest. She went horse riding on December 20, among 10 people who participated in the ride.

"Her saddle came off and she fell off the horse. The back of her head hit the ground," Cumberland said. "She looked horrible. I really don't remember a lot from that day."

May was rushed to University Medical Center in Jackson where Cumberland said doctors were not optimistic of May's chances of survival.

"They thought she was brain dead at one time. She was up and down every day until the point came when they were not giving her a chance. We were making preparations to have her declared brain dead," Cumberland said.

One week after the accident, that's when it happened as medical personnel were preparing to take her for the procedures for the declaration and the family had visited with her.

"Her pupils went down and she started showing brain waves. The

See MAY, 8A

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WEEK OF Jan 18, 2015

get a master's degree in nursing.

• Rebecca Tero of Decatur is a recent recipient of the Non-Traditional Student Tuition Scholarship presented at East Central Community College in Decatur. Tero, a 27-year-old art major, is in the second semester of her freshman year after attending college at

Tero

ECCC for the very first time. Non-traditional student tuition scholarships are provided to students age 23 or older who meet the scholarship guidelines.

• East Central Community College instructor and science department chairman Curt Skipper was recently selected to join Golden Key International Honor Society.

Induction into Golden Key is a coveted distinction that marks collegiate academic success and recognizes the Top 15 percent of university students. Membership also provides unmatched access to personal education, career enhancement and unique service opportunities.

Skipper joined the ECCC faculty in 2006. He received his associate's degree from East Mississippi Community College, bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and completed the master's degree at the University of West Alabama. He is currently working toward a doctorate in biology education through the Center for Science and Math Education at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Golden Key's membership network consists of more than two million outstanding achievers from more than 400 universities and colleges in numerous countries around the world. Members have access to personal and professional development opportunities, leadership training, more than $1 million dollars in scholarships annually as well as countless other benefits.

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WEEK OF Jan. 15 2015

Morton Chamber Banquet January 29th; ECCC Collegians To Perform

photo by ECCC

ECCC COLLEGIANS TO PERFORM AT MORTON CHAMBER BANQUET: Pictured are (kneeling, from left) technician Acea Ange of Meridian, vocalists Garrett McDill of Conehatta, Ryan Godwin of Newton and Nick Stewart of Philadelphia; and technicians Justin Moore of Kosciusko and Michael Buntyn of Newton; (second row, from left) technicians Patrick Embrey of Hickory, Hannah Mitchell of Meridian, and Jeremy Collins of Forest; auxiliary percussionist Matt Mason of Union, vocalists Tallie Johnston of Lake, Cara Jackson of Louisville and Anna Wells of Noxapater; keyboardist Anna Girling of Carthage, director/guitarist Chas Evans and technicians Ben Avera of Hickory and Ryan McClendon of Forest; and (top row, from left) trombonist Evan Derrick of Morton, saxophonist Zach Peden of Philadelphia, drummer Chris Kelley of Newton, trumpeter Nina LaBue of Conehatta, guitarist Stephen Stewart of Decatur, trumpeter Daniela Vargas of Morton, bass guitarist Houston Martin of Union and technician Ryan Packer of Decatur.

The 56th Annual Membership Banquet of the Morton Chamber of Commerce will be held Thursday evening, January 29th, at 7:00. The banquet will take place at the new Morton Activities Center, Farris Park.

Tickets are now on sale for $15 each. Contact the Chamber office at 601-732-6135.

The Collegians, a highly recognized performing group which makes up East Central Community College's Rock N'Roll Band, will provide an evening of special entertainment. Former Morton High School students Daniela Vargas and Evan Derrick are members of The Collegians.

At the Membership Banquet, the Chamber Board of Directors will be introduced, retiring members recognized and new members named. A delicious meal will be served and there will be an awards program to recognized businesses and individuals.

Morton Chamber President Fred Johnson invites Chamber members and guests to attend this annual event.

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

Appeared in:

Carthaginian ____

Clarion-Ledger ____

Meridian Star ____

Neshoba Democrat ✓

These students at East Central Community College in Decatur were recently named to Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges for 2014-15. Students were nominated by faculty and staff and are chosen based on academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular clubs and organizations. Honorees and their respective hometowns include, kneeling in front, from left, Rachel Laird, Meridian; Haleigh West and Mak Rowzee, both of Hickory; Danielle Gregory, Little Rock; and Nikki Triplett, Forest; seated, from left, Lacye Harrison, Little Rock; Sarah Freeman, Decatur; Anna Girling, Carthage; Lorrie Moore, Lena; Jenny Grove, Forest; Cara Jackson, Nanih Waiya; Grayson Harrell, Morton; Jessica Moffett, Meridian; Aaren Avera, Hickory; and Alana Kron, Decatur; third row, from left, Alex Bucklew, Louisville; Jordan Alonso, Chunky; Daniel Giles, Union; Colton Horne, Noxapater; Justin Moore, Thomastown; Jenna Lovorn and Samantha Morgan, both of Louisville; Bridgettte McFarland, Philadelphia; Lauren Cantey, Collinsville; Chance Lovern, Philadelphia; Emily Cook, Carthage; Megan Robinson, Nanih Waiya; Mackenzie Gannon, Decatur; Hannah Mitchell, Meridian; DeeJay Rolison, Conehatta; and Kardarius McClendon, Brandon; fourth row, from left, Kyle McCullough, Madison; Jeremy Hudson, DeKalb; Katherine Jacome-Cluff, Hickory; Katie Sanford, Decatur; Dakota Wright, Jana Warren, Leah Ferguson and Allison Johnson, all of Philadelphia; Erika Cockrell, Birmingham, Ala.; Tesia Keith, Corinth; Anna Katherine Nowell, Philadelphia; Kimberly Harrison, Forest; Haley Pierce, Noxapater; Katy Ezelle, Decatur; Kristen Gordy, Forest; Madelyn Peterson and Bryan Burton, both of Louisville; fifth row, from left, Jage Doss, Enterprise; Ben Killen, Union; Hunter Thrower, Meridian; Faith Emmons, Lake; Chase McNair, Philadelphia; Warner Parkes, Nanih Waiya; Virginia Easley, Philadelphia; Tyler Runnels, Morton; Mallory Turner, Meridian; Karoline Holsonback, Kennedy, Ala.; Trent Haden, Sumrall; Christopher Brown and Dominck Fields, both of Forest; Alec Doggett, Carthage; Lauren Peterson, Forest; and Noah Corcoran, Louisville; and top row, from left, Tyler Cook, Gulfport; Todd Hughes, Meridian; Chance Whitten, Batesville; Brittney Taylor, Lake; Regan Reiss, Forest; Charles Thorne, Decatur; John Davis, Carthage; William Howington and Delton Harrison, both of Little Rock; Dylan Little, Mobile, Ala.; Will Myers, Philadelphia; Brody Richardson, Louisville; Tyler Armistad, Caledonia; Tyler Faulkner, Carthage; Asif Zaffar, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan; Zach Allen, Louisville; and Jonathan Hodge, Lake.

Jan 25, 2015

Who's Who

WEEK OF Jan. 25, 2012

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Jan. 25, 2015

The Neshoba Democrat, Philadelphia, Miss., January 28, 2015, 9C

ECCC surgical technology program graduates

Ready to begin their new careers in the healthcare field are the above students who recently completed the 12-month surgical technology program at East Central Community College in Decatur. The special group was honored at the program's annual pinning ceremony held Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center on the Decatur campus. Graduates include, first row, from left, Brandi Sanders, Morton; Kierra Lanay Griffin, Louisville; Victoria Smith, Morton; Jessica Delon Thames, Decatur; and Tywonna Kyerica Harris, Lena; second row, from left, Con'Brianna T. Evans, Clinton; Heather Lee Clark, Nichole Wilson (Surgical Technology Student of the Year) and Dakota Wilcher, all of Philadelphia; third row, from left, Julie Ann Pierce, Philadelphia; Veronica Shan'ta Ramsey, Meridian; and Shawna Danielle Peets, Union; and back row, from left, instructor Kristie Pilgrim; DeMarcus Antwan Brown, Meridian; and program director/instructor LeAnn Shirley. For more information on ECCC's healthcare programs, contact Denita Thomas, dean of healthcare education, at 601-635-6294 or email dthomas@eccc.edu.

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MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Jan. 28, 2015

The Neshoba Democrat, Philadelphia, Miss., January 28, 2015, 9C

ECCC students receive EMT certificates

These East Central Community College students were recently recognized for completing the fall semester Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic Course. The honorees received certificates during a special ceremony in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Recipients include, first row, from left, Kamry Freeny, Carthage; Brittany Morrow, Union; Shantel Jenkins, Philadelphia; Justina Billy, Choctaw; Maria Rivera, Forest; Amy Beasley, Quitman; and P.J. Burr, Decatur; and second row, Thomas Fox, Forest; Cassaundra Dunaway, Noxapater; Shadaedra Jones, Conehatta; Janera Triplett and Tommy Martin, both of Philadelphia; and Jeremiah Tindol, Carthage. In back are instructors John Barham of Polkville and Dale Yates of Union. Chris Kelly serves as interim director/instructor for the EMT-Paramedic Program. For more information on ECCC healthcare progra, contact Denita Thomas, dean of healthcare education, at 601-635-6294 or email mailto:dthomas@eccc.edu.

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

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WEEK OF Jan. 23, 2015

ECCC PHOTO

Members of the East Central Community College Student Publications staffs donated canned goods to the Carlisle Crisis Center of Scott County in Forest. Staffers from the *Wo-He-Lo* yearbook and *The Tom-Tom* newspaper staffs donated more than 50 canned goods to the center. Pictured with some of the cans donated are *Tom-Tom* editor Madison Barnett of Noxapater and Wo-He-Lo editor Emily Cook of Carthage. Student Publications is sponsored by Gennie Taylor of Forest.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ✓

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES ✓

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL ✓

CLARION-LEDGER

Appeared in:

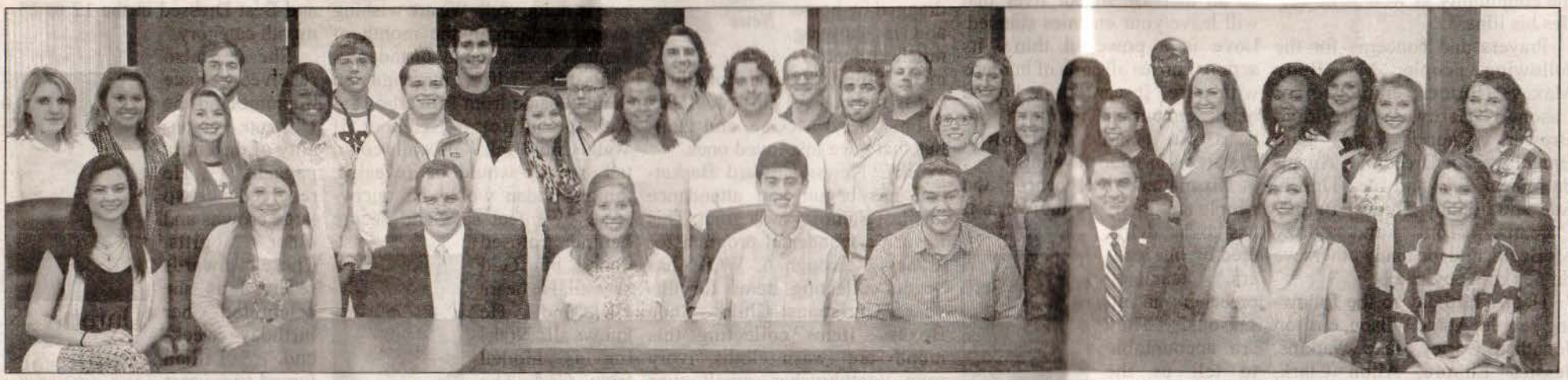
Carthaginian ____ Newton Appeal ____

Clarion-Ledger ____ Scott County Times ✓

Meridian Star ____ Spirit of Morton ____

Neshoba Democrat ____ Winston County Journal ____

Other Publications ____



The above students currently serve as members of the President's Council at East Central Community College in Decatur. The President's Council is comprised of leaders of all campus clubs and organizations and was established to provide better communications between student groups and the President's office. Members include (seated, from left) Leah Ferguson, Jenna Lovorn; Dr. Randall E. Lee, Vice President for Student Services; Katy Ezell (vice president); Zach Allen (president), DeeJay Rolison (secretary), Dr. Billy W. Stewart, President; Kara Yates of Morton, ECCC Concert Choir; (second row, from left) Bristol Buffington, Mak Rowzee, Virginia Easley, Warner Parkes, Haley Pierce, Madison Barnett, Trent Haden, Colton Horne, Jamie Mathis, Katie Sanford, Emily Shoemake, Lydia Wolfe, Kierra Griffin, Kaley Bufkin, and Kodi Wright. (back row, from left) Tallie Johnston of Lake, Ac'cents; Houston Martin, Joshua Parker, Caleb Stallings, Duston Call, Noah Corcoran, Colby Amis, William Milner, Sarah Freeman, Keona Foster, Christopher Brown of Forest, and Allison Johnston.

Jan. 11, 2015

WEEK OF Jan. 11, 2015

ECCC PHOTO

ECCC SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GRADUATES ANNOUNCED

Ready to begin their new careers in the healthcare field are the above students who recently completed the 12-month surgical technology program at East Central Community College in Decatur. The special group was honored at the program's annual pinning ceremony held Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center on the Decatur campus. Graduates include (first row, from left) Brandi Sanders, Morton; Kierra Lanay Griffin, Louisville; Victoria Smith, Morton; Jessica Delon Thames, Decatur; and Tywonna Kyerica Harris, Lena; (second row, from left) Con'Brianna T. Evans, Clinton; Heather Lee Clark, Nichole Wilson (Surgical Technology Student of the Year) and Dakota Wilcher, all of Philadelphia; (third row, from left) Julie Ann Pierce, Philadelphia; Veronica Shan'ta Ramsey, Meridian; and Shawna Danielle Peets, Union; and (back row, from left) instructor Kristie Pilgrim; DeMarcus A[illegible]yan Brown, Meridian; and program director/instructor LeAnn Shirley. For more information on ECCC's healthcar[illegible] contact Denita Thomas at 601-635-6294 or email dthomas@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES ✓

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WEEK OF Jan. 11, 2015

Local students selected for Who's Who at East Central

DECATUR — Scott County students were among others at East Central Community College in Decatur who were recently named to Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges for 2014-15.

Students were nominated by faculty and staff and are chosen based on academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular clubs and organizations.

Local honorees and their respective hometowns include Nikki Triplett, Forest; Lorrie Moore, Lena; Jenny Grove, Forest; Grayson Harrell, Morton; Kimberly Harrison, Forest; Kristen Gordy, Forest; Faith Emmons, Lake; Tyler Runnels, Morton; Christopher Brown and Dominck Fields, both of Forest; Lauren Peterson, Forest; Brittney Taylor, Lake; Regan Reiss, Forest; and Jonathan Hodge, Lake.

ECCC Gospel Choir performs

DECATUR — East Central Community Gospel Choir performed its fall semester concert last month. Scott County students included Malcolm McBride, Morton.

The Rev. Marcus Mann, also an ECCC alumnus, served as master of ceremonies. ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart also provided remarks. Gospel choir members who participated in the program included Andrea Riley, introduction of master of ceremonies; and Keona Foster who performed a mime dance.

Take Top Honors in EC Wellness Competition

DECATUR — The "Real Contenders" took top honors during the East Central Community College Wellness Warrior Healthy Habits Challenge. The competition, which was held during October and November, 2014, was a points-based event that challenged employees to eat healthier, drink more water and exercise.

"There were 109 participants in the Challenge," said Dr. Krista LeBrun, event chairperson. "Many participants stated this was just the motivation they needed to get their health on track and that this was a fun activity to complete with their colleagues."

Team members include Joe Barrett, Chris Clark, Virgie Thames, Emilee Smith, Melissa Allman and Lucretia Williams.

Local students added to EC Warrior Corp

DECATUR — Forty-four students were recently selected for membership in the East Central Community College Warrior Corps, a select group chosen to represent the College with recruiting endeavors and special events on the Decatur campus.

Joining the prestigious organization are Hannah May of Little Rock, Kaylee Yates, Lalah McMullen and Kaley Bufkin, all of Decatur; Tyler Sistrunk, Keri Ann Mayfield and Brady McElhenney, all of Union; Emily Shoemake of Conehatta; Ashley Gressett, Mikayla May and Jordan Alonso, all of Chunky; Lindsay Hedge, Madison Pettigrew, Brittney Rawson and Kaitlin Smith, all of Forest; Skylar Davidson of Morton; Anthony Emmons of Lake; Shelly Dowell of Lena; Sydney Keith, Layne Lepard, Allison Johnson, Macken'z Smith, Carson Vanderporten, Ryan Gardner, Ben Pace, Shaneisha Willis, Devin Skinner and Chase McNair, all of Philadelphia; Jade Smith, Samantha Morgan, Madelon Taylor, Joelie Hill and Morgan Orr, all of Louisville; Amy Hall, Megan Robinson, Karla Higginbotham, Logan Gregory, Leslie Estes and Channing Parkes, all of Nanih Waiya; Madison Barnett and Anna Claire Webb, both of Noxapater; Chelsea Wright of Yazoo City; and Kaitlyn Blue of Ellisville.

EC Student Services staff members Lanette Hanna and Romonica Evans serve as sponsors.

Brackeen scholarship recipient

Logan Alford of Forest was the recipient of the Denver Brackeen Scholarship presented at East Central Community College in Decatur. Alford was among more than 120 students who received 124 endowed or annual scholarships as they entered the current school year.

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WEEK OF JAN. 11, 2015

Gospel choir shines at ECCC winter concert

East Central Community Gospel's Choir performed at the December concert in Decatur. Pictured are, first row from left, T'keya Backstrom and Keona Foster, both of Philadelphia; Andrea Riley, Walnut Grove; Chaiydreanna Leflore, Carthage; Tanzania McCalphi, Newton; and Terry Bolar, Newton; second row from left, Ke-Yanna Kidd, Newton; Brandon Davis, Decatur; Contessa Peebles and Paige Brown, both of Philadelphia; Tammie Triplett, Louisville; and Malcolm McBride, Morton; and third row from left, Christopher Kelley Newton; A.J. Mapp, Decatur; Glenn Bender, Newton; Dekendrick Rushing, Walnut Grove; and sponsor Brenda K. Johnson, Lawrence. Not pictured are Chesea Clay of Philadelphia, Chris Hickman of Louisville, Da'Quan Robinson of Decatur, Keron Evans of Hickory and Alysia Johnson and Karimeka Britton, both of Carthage.

EC photo

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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APPEARED IN:

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NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL

SPIRIT OF MORTON X

MERIDIAN STAR

other publications X

www.neshobademocrat.com

East Central transfer students earn highest GPA

DECATUR, Miss.—For the econd straight year, students vho transferred from East Central Community College to our-year institutions earned he highest cumulative grade oint average (GPA) of all ommunity college transfers in he state of Mississippi.

Students who transferred rom East Central to one of the tate's eight public, four-year nstitutions earned a 3.22 GPA, ccording to data released from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL). Students from the community/junior college with the second highest GPA earned a 3.21. The average for all 15 community colleges combined was a 3.13 GPA.

The report also again showed that community college transfer students performed academically as well or better in university courses than students who began their education at the senior institutions. The "native" students earned a 3.10 GPA.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart said that he was extremely proud of the former students and for the role East Central Community College faculty and staff played in preparing the students to transfer to the four-year university level.

"This data, compiled and reported by the IHL, affirms the results of our college's dedication to Student Success and Teaching and Learning, two hallmark commitments of our strategic plan for the future, 2020 Vision," Stewart said. "When we adopted this plan in February 2013, these are the results we anticipated. Our faculty and staff are to be commended for preparing East Central transfer students well for the academic challenges of a university. Based on the performance of our transfer students, no one does that better in the state of Mississippi than East Central Community College."

East Central Community College offers the two-year pre-baccalaureate Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees, with more than 201 areas of concentration. These academic courses are guaranteed to transfer as a result of an Articulation Agreement between Mississippi's community colleges and the state's public four-year colleges and universities.

The college also offers two-year terminal degrees in healthcare, career and technical fields of study.

For more information about attending East Central Community College, contact ECCC Student Services at 601-635-6205 or e-mail rlee@eccc.edu.

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June 21 2015

WEEK OF June 21, 2015

EC chooses 2015-16 Centralettes

From school reports

Members of the East Central Community College Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, were recently chosen following auditions on the Decatur campus.

Those selected and their respective hometowns include: Taylor Alexander, Joelie Hill, Paige Johnson and Ashley Young, all of Louisville; Makenzie Byrd and Taylor Fulkerson, both of Conehatta; Kaley Bufkin, Abby Reeves, Sylvia Thames and Kaylee Yates, all of Decatur; Lauren Cassel, Union; Hailey Clark and Madison Hannis, both of Carthage; Emily Dykeman and Brianna Easterling, both of Forest; Kaitlyn Evans, Morton; Taylor Phillips and Chandler Posey, both of Philadelphia; and Anna Claire Webb, Noxapater.

Melonie Washington of Philadelphia serves as coordinator of the Centralettes.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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WEEK OF July 5, 2018

Grace gives to EC's BSU

During vacation Bible school at Grace United Baptist Church, the children took up an offering during the week of $500, which was given to the Baptist Student Union at East Central Community College to help fund its summer mission trip. Scott Vaughn, BSU director, receives a check from Lily Addy.

Submitted Photo

APPEARED IN:

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CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of 11/22/15

East Central Community College choral director Vicki Blaylock, right, and Newton County High School choral director Suzanne Cain embrace at the conclusion of Thursday night's performance of "The Messiah" at the Huff Auditorium. The performers received a standing ovation from the audience.

Brent Maze/The Appeal

Other Publications

The bass soloist performs the movement "The people that walked in darknes have seen a great light" for the audience at Huff Auditorium.

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of 11/22/15

The soprano and tenor sections follow the conductor during the performance of Handel's Messiah at East Central Community College's Huff Auditorium on Thursday night in Decatur.

Spirit of Mor

Winston Coun

Other Publicat

Violinists and a cellist play along with the orchestra for Handel's Messiah Thursday night at East Central's Huff Auditorium.

WEEK OF 12/15

The combined choirs of East Central Community College and Newton County High School perform excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" at EC's Huff Auditorium on Thurs

Brent Maze/

EC, NCHS perform Handel's Messia

APF CAF NEV SPI MEF

WEEK OF 11/29/16

KENNEDY RECEIVES THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP

Douglas Kennedy (center), a graduate of Scott Central High School, was the recipient of the Albert P. and Blanche W. Thompson Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with donor representatives Dr. Bob Johnson (left) and Ellen Johnson during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF NOV. 1, 2015

BUCKLEY RECEIVES AWARD

Baylee Buckley, left, a graduate of Lake High School, is the recipient of the Albert F. and Fannie M. Hollingsworth Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representative Patricia Lowe during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

DYKEMAN RECEIVES AWARD

Emily Dykeman, left, a graduate of Forest High School, was recently named the recipient of the J.C. White Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

JOHNSTON RECEIVES AWARD

Tallie Johnston, left, a homeschool graduate from Lake, was recently named the recipient of the Robert G. Fick Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF October 2015

COMANS RECEIVES LONG SCHOLARSHIP

Brentley Comans. center, a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center, was recently named the recipient of the William Wade Long Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representatives Rusty Long, left, and Gail Long during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Sept 27, 2005

Alejandra Salgado, left, a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center, is the recipient of the Weems Family Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors.

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WEEK OF _____

SMITH RECEIVES IRIS BOGGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Kaitlin Smith, left, a graduate of Scott Central High School, is the recipient of the Iris Pellegrene Boggan Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held recently.

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WEEK OF _____

ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Scott County residents, from left, Brianna Easterling of Scott Central High School and Carrie Thompson (center) of East Rankin Academy are the recipients of Mississippi Association of Supervisors Community College Scholarships at East Central Community College in Decatur. They are pictured with George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held recently.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

BOSWELL RECEIVES PACE SCHOLARSHIP

Zach Boswell (left), a graduate of Scott Central High School, was the recipient of the Polk and Jennie Pace Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held recently.

APPEARED IN:

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES ✓

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WEEK OF Sept.

BROWN RECEIVES SIGREST MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Christopher Brown (left), a graduate of Forest High School, was the recipient of the Elva Smith Sigrest Memorial Scolarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held recently.

APPEARED IN:

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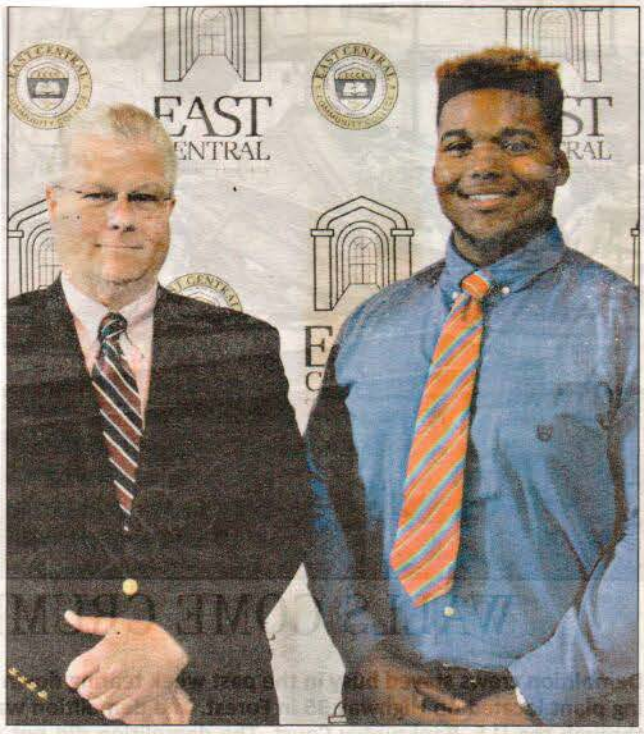
WEEK OF SEPT



BRAGGS RECEIVES AUTOMOTIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Jarod Braggs, right, a graduate of Forest High School, is the recipient of the Mississippi Automotive Manufacturer's Association Scholarship at East Central Community College. He is pictured with donor representative Kevin Logan during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held recently. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Sept 4, 2015

RICHARDSON RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP

Tabatha Richardson, left, a graduate of Lake High School, is the recipient of the R.O. and Bertha Hanna Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Sept. 4, 2015

DYKEMAN HONORED

Emily Dykeman, left, a graduate of Forest High School, is the recipient of the Regina Gail Gibbs Rigby Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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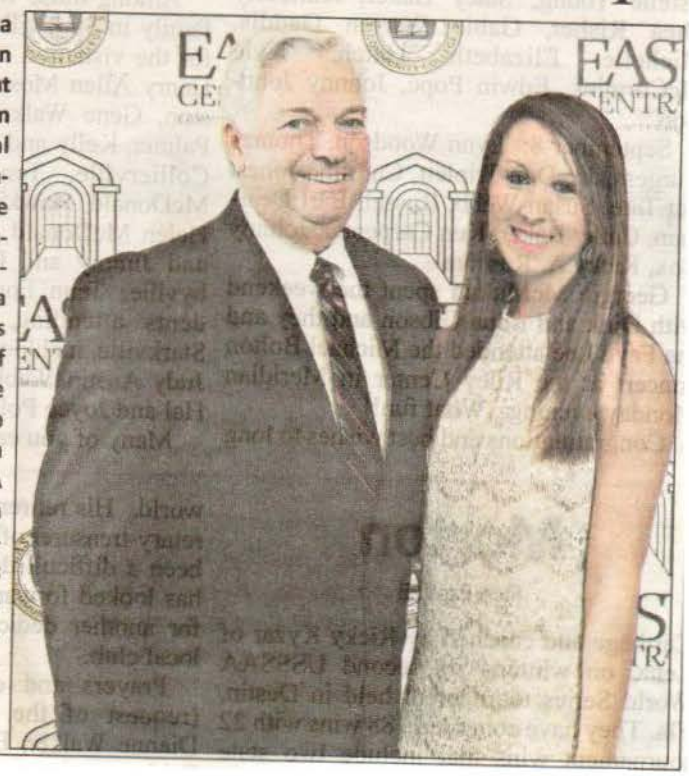
WEEK OF Aug 30, 2015

Taylor presents scholarship



Carlie Vinzant (right), a graduate of East Rankin Academy, is the recipient of the Sylvia Ann Graham Haywood Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with Forest resident George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

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WEEK OF Aug 30 2015

BOUT RECEIVES PHILLIPS SCHOLARSHIP

Cassidi Bout, center, a graduate of Lake High School, is the recipient of the Charles P. and Bonnie Saxon Phillips Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representatives Glenda Malone, left, and Ellen Malone during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Aug 9, 2015

Alexandria Crout (right), a graduate of Lake High School, is the recipient of the Warrior Golf Classic Alumni Association Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representative Jeanette Thrash, president of the ECCC alumni association. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Aug. 9, 2015

Marshall receives Copeland Scholarship

Madison Marshall (left), a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, is the recipient of the Prentice and Dorothy Copeland Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative Prentice Copeland during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

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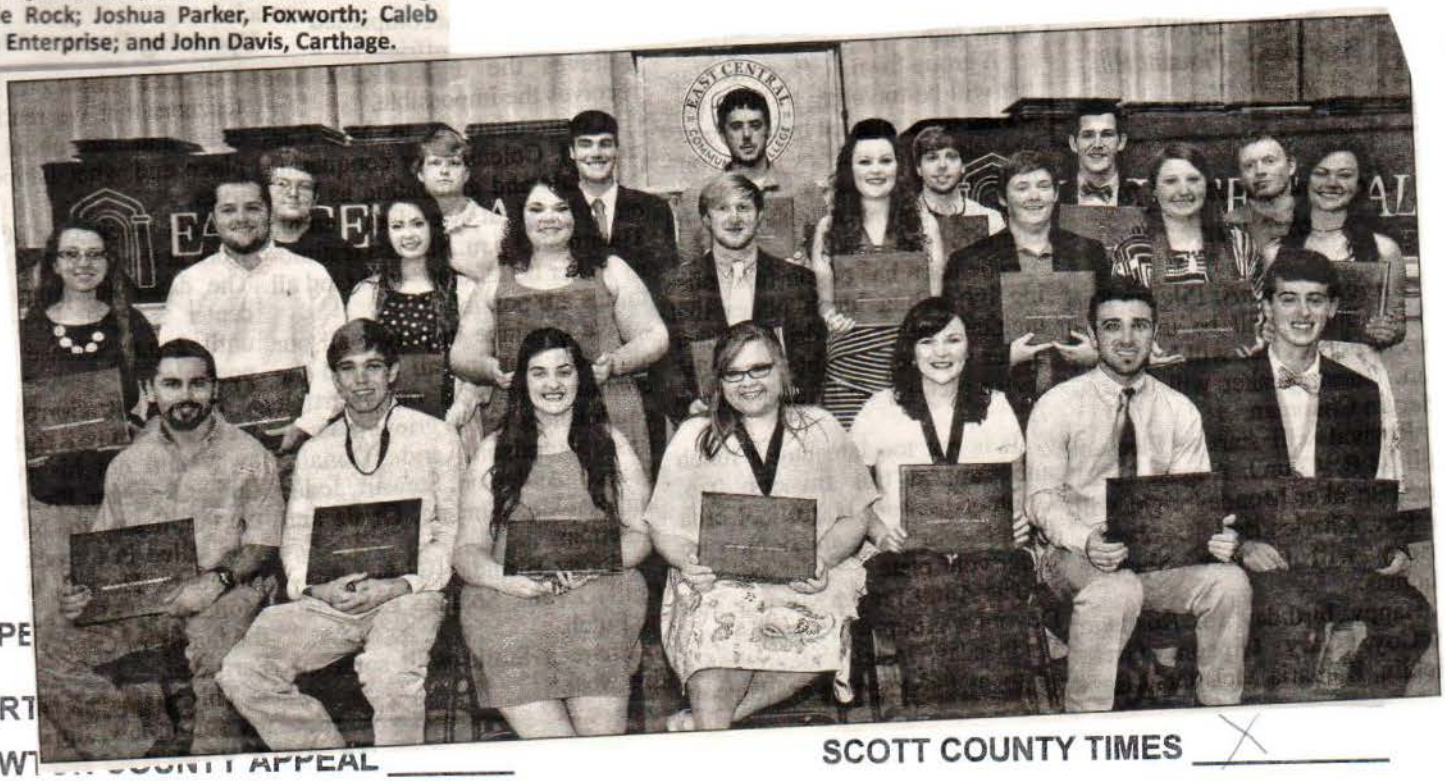
WEEK OF August 2, 2015

STUDENTS RECEIVE MSU SCHOLARSHIPS

Sophomores at East Central Community College received transfer scholarships to attend Mississippi State University. Pictured are, from left front: Hunter Fortenberry, Forest; Keifer Wolfe, Lake; Kimberly Talbert, Bridgette McFarland and Allison Johnson, all of Philadelphia; Colton Horne, Noxapater; and Zachary Allen, Louisville. Middle row: Rachel Laird, Meridian; Warner Parkes, Louisville; Dakota Hollingsworth, Lake; Hanna Williams, Sebastopol; Daniel Giles, Union; Kristen Gordy, Forest; Parker Jones, Carthage; Jenna Lovorn, Louisvile; and Leah Ferguson, Philadelphia. Back row: Delton Harrison, Little Rock; Charles Thorne, Decatur; Bryan Burton, Louisville; William Howington, Little Rock; Joshua Parker, Foxworth; Caleb Stallings, Enterprise; and John Davis, Carthage.



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WEEK OF _____

Pace receives scholarship

Benjamin Pace, left, a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, is the recipient of the Classes of 1957, 1958 and 1959 Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is shown with donor representative Carol Vickers during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

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WEEK OF JULY 26, 2015

Supervisors' scholars

Leake Central High School graduates, from left, Aerial Green, Madison Hannis and Abbey Adams receive the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Community College Scholarships at East Central Community College from donor representative Joe Andy Helton during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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WEEK OF July 24, 2015

Johnston gets award

Tristan Johnston, left, a graduate of Leake Central High School, receives congratulations for winning the Square County Auctions Scholarship at East Central Community College, from donor representative Joe Andy Helton during annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF JULY 26, 2015

Goodin receives Citizens Bank Scholarship

Lora Camryn Goodin, left, a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, is the recipient of the Citizens Bank of Philadelphia Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representative Camp Keith during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF JUNE 2015

Pilgrim receives McMillin Scholarship

Cheyenne Pilgrim, left, a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, is the recipient of the Dr. Howard Cartlton McMillin Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representatives, from left, Shirley McMillin, Leesa McMillin and David McMillin during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF July 20, 2015

Phillips receives U.S. Electrical Motors Scholarship

Taylor Phillips, right, a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, is the recipient of the U.S. Electrical Motors Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representative Kinoth Thornton during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

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WEEK OF JUN 19, 2015

Atkison awarded aid

Joseph Atkison, left, a graduate of Leake Central High School, is saluted as recipient of the Hubert D. Gilmore Scholarship at East Central Community College by George Taylor, a member of the college's foundation board of directors.

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Students recognized with EC scholarships

EK OF JUN 19 2015

Andrew Barnett (left), a graduate of Newton County Academy, is the recipient of the Friendship Breakfast Club Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

Brentley Comans (center), a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center, is the recipie of the William Wade Long Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College Decatur. She is pictured with donor representatives Rusty Long (left) and Gail Lo during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditoriu

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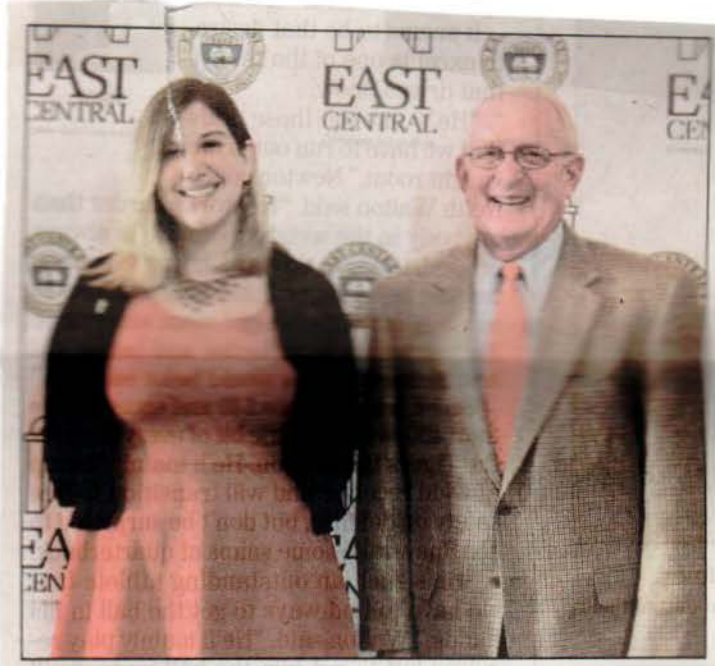
WEEK OF



Alana Knowles (left), a homeschool graduate from Decatur, is the recipient of the Dr. Earl L. Laird, Sr., Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representative Dr. Earl Laird, Jr., during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

Samuel Thompson (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the East Central Scholars Alumni Association Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with donor representative Jeanette Thrash, ECCC alumni association president, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

ithey Kennedy (left), a graduate of Newton County High
hool, is the recipient of the East Central Scholars
nnus Scholarship at East Central Community College
Decatur. She is pictured with George Taylor, a member
the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the
nual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12
Huff Audi

EC Photo

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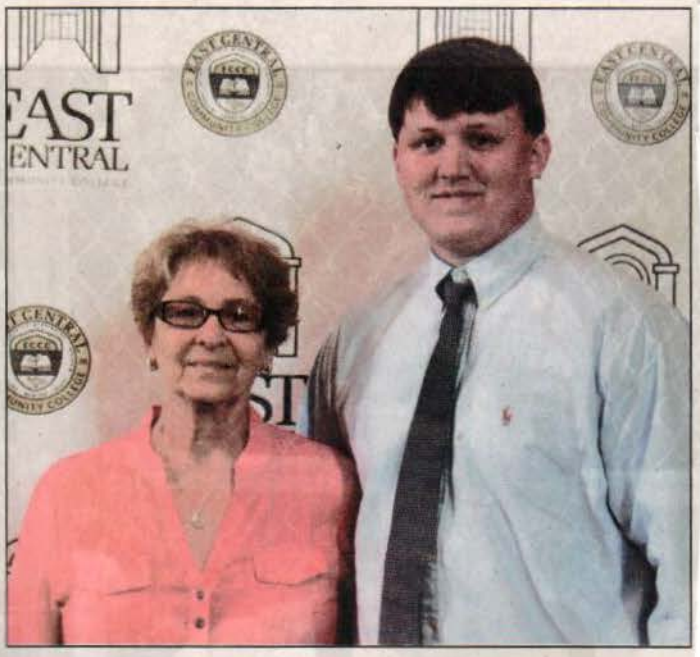
WEEK OF Jul 19, 2015

East Central announces scholarship winners

Lindsey Ayllon (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Willis E. Blum and Frances Gaines Blum Slagle Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.



Joshua Mason (right) is the 2015 recipient of East Central Community College's Bobby Addy Memorial Scholarship. The Newton County High School graduate is pictured with Addy's widow, Pat Addy, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

McElhenney (left), a graduate of Union Hig is the recipient of the Frances Brown Crenshaw Scholarship at East Central Community Colleg He is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a membe

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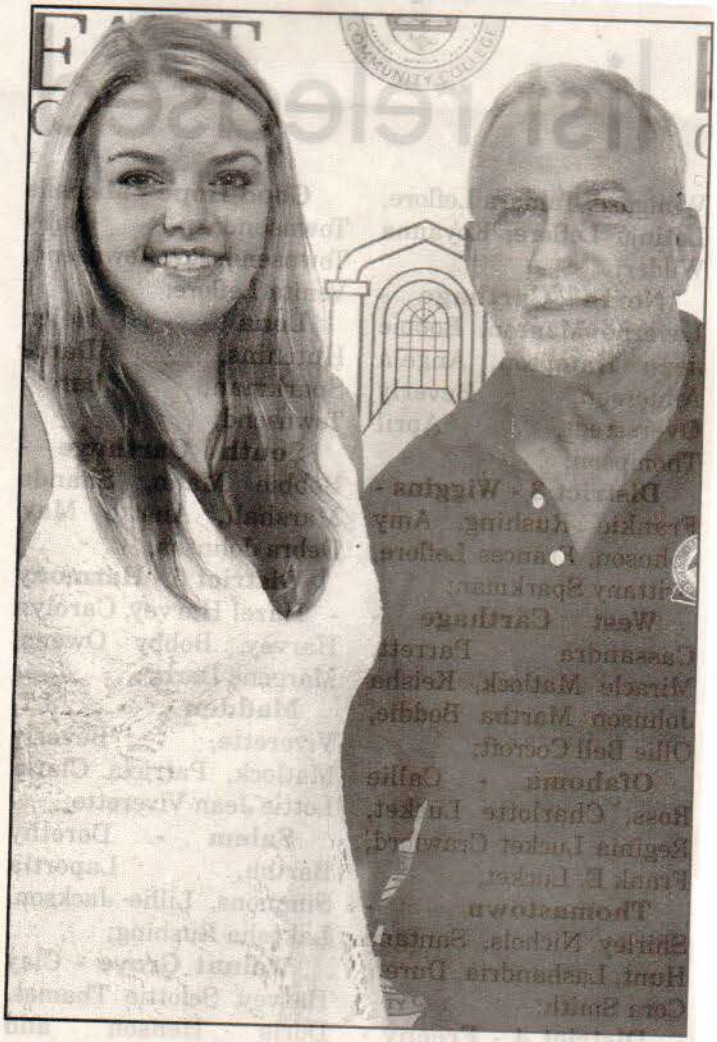
WEEK OF JUN 5 2017



Malone receives honor

Jaycie Malone, left, a graduate of Leake Academy, receives the Eastside Pawn and Gun Scholarship at East Central Community College from Joe Andy Helton during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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WEEK OF JUN 14 2015

Mitchell wins recognition

Sam Mitchell, center, a graduate of Leake Academy, is honored as recipient of the Dr. Shelby L. Harris Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College, from donor representatives Kim Gordon, left, and Helen Gibbs during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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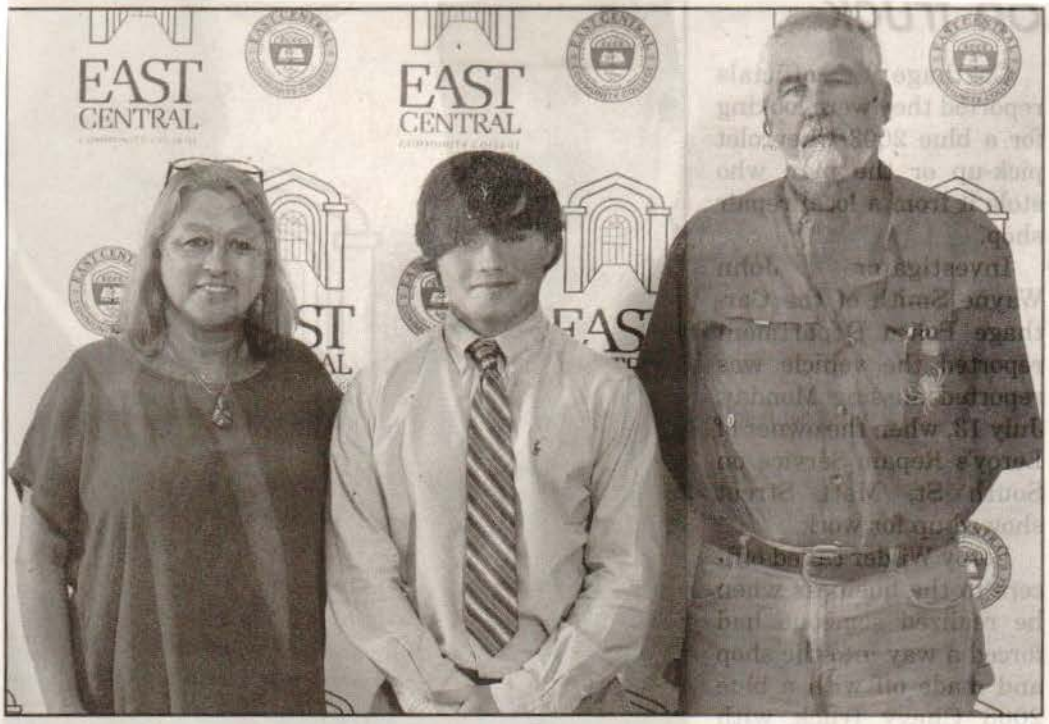

Cain wins scholarship

Morgan Cain, center, a graduate of Leake Academy, takes congratulations for winning the Russell McCann Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College from donor representatives Teresa Shannon, left, and Ricky Shannon during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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Clark takes scholarship

Hailey Clark, left, a graduate of Leake Central High School, is congratulated for winning the Dr. Beverly Henry Oliphant-Martin and John E. Martin Scholarship at East Central Community College from donor representative Ann Burkes during the ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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WEEK OF July 14 2006

Cain wins ECCC assist

Morgan Cain, left, a graduate of Leake Academy, receives congratulations for winning the Larry B. Therrell Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College, from donor representative Paula Therrell during annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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July 12, 2015

Devon Campbell (center), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Johnson-Taylor Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. He is pictured with donor representatives Bruce (right) and Susan Taylor during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

Jerry Thompson (center), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Kyle Dunkerson Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. He is pictured with donor representatives Gwen Walker (left) and Angela Kyzar during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

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10, 12, 2015

Devon Campbell (center), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Johnson-Taylor Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. He is pictured with donor representatives Bruce (right) and Susan Taylor during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

Jerry Thompson (center), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Kyle Dunkerson Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. He is pictured with donor representatives Gwen Walker (left) and Angela Kyzar during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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WEEK OF July 12, 2015

Hannah Mitchell (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Reverend John Lambert Neill Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative Susan Taylor during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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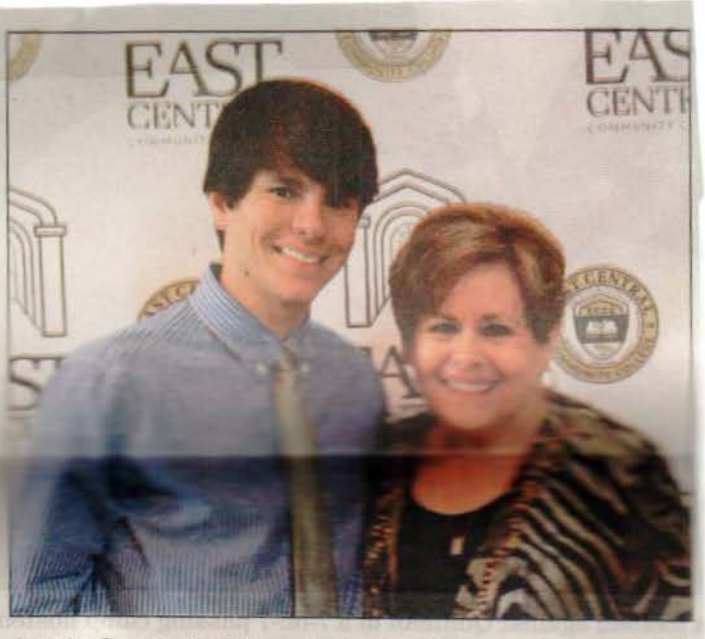

Austin Spears (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Ruth Round Volunteer Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

AnnaLea Clarke (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Martha Kate Tullos Hummel Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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Mont'Aja Norman (second from left), a graduate of Newton High School, and Meagan Higginbotham (third from left), a Newton County High School graduate, are the recipients of the La-Z-Boy Scholarships at East Central Community College. They are pictured with donor representatives Julie Rawzee (left) and Tom Keith during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

Newton County residents (from left) Kellie Nickson of Sebastopol High School and Tyler Richardson and Jacob Hamm, both of Newton County High School, are the recipients of Mississippi Association of Supervisors Community College Scholarships at East Central Community College in Decatur. They are pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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Brittany Clayton (center), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Pam Harris Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representatives Krissi Munn (left) and Chris Harris during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

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Chaney Mills (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Willis W. "Bubba" Smith Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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East Central announces scholarship winners

Billy Murphree (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Newton Rotary Club Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Audi-

EC Photo

Leah Chandler (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Paul V. and Voncile H. Breazeale Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative Lois Cooper during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

Nina LaBue (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Coach Ken Pouncey Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative Alice Pouncey during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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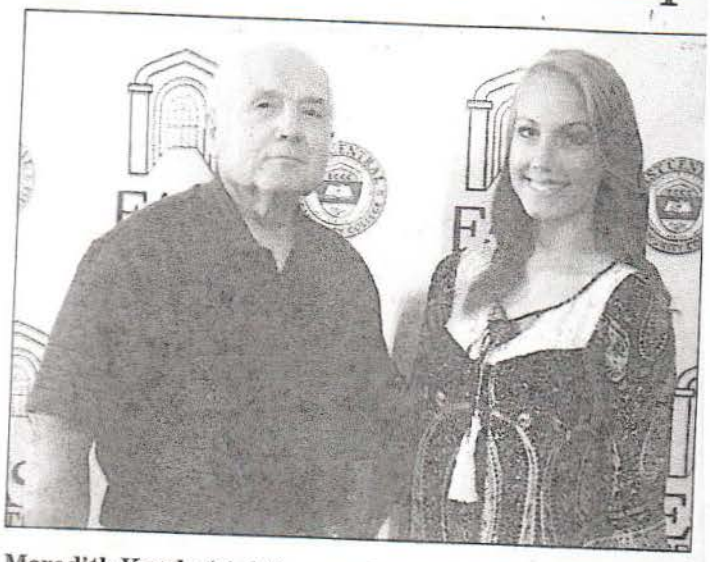
Keady lands scholarship



Meredith Keady (right), a graduate of Union High School, is the recipient of the James E. Land Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative John Boutwell during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

Mayfield receives scholarship

Keri Ann Mayfield (left), a graduate of Union High School, is the recipient of the Myrtle R. Hutchison Elementary Education Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with David Boydstun, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during

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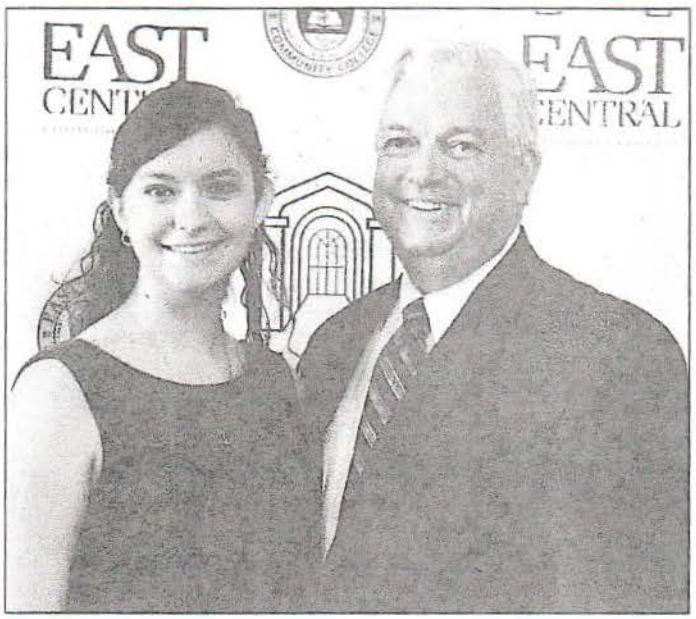
Kole Henry (left), a graduate of Union High School, is the recipient of the AT&T Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with donor representative Corey Amis during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

Cassie Smith (right), a graduate of Union High School, is the recipient of the James M. Vance Scholarship at East Central Community College. She is pictured with donor representative Patsy Vance during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

Peyton Foreman (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Johnson Family Engineering Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff



Louise Berryhill (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Lucille Wood Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium

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CLIP FILE SUMMARY

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Newton Appeal _____ X

Codi Ballard (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the Dr. Conrad C. Barnes Jr., Math and Science Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representatives Linda (center) and Billy Pierce during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

EC Photo

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton _____

Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

Nathaniel Thorne (left) and Melanie Brashier (center), both graduates of Newton County High School, are the recipients of the Bankplus Annual Scholarships at East Central Community College in Decatur. They are pictured with donor representative Coleen Stevens during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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Week of July 12, 2015

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Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal X

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Winston County Journal _____

Other Publications _____

East Central an

Kayla Young (right) of Olive Branch is the 2015 recipient of the Dr. L.B. and Dixie Adkins Family Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. The Center Hill High School graduate is pictured with George Taylor, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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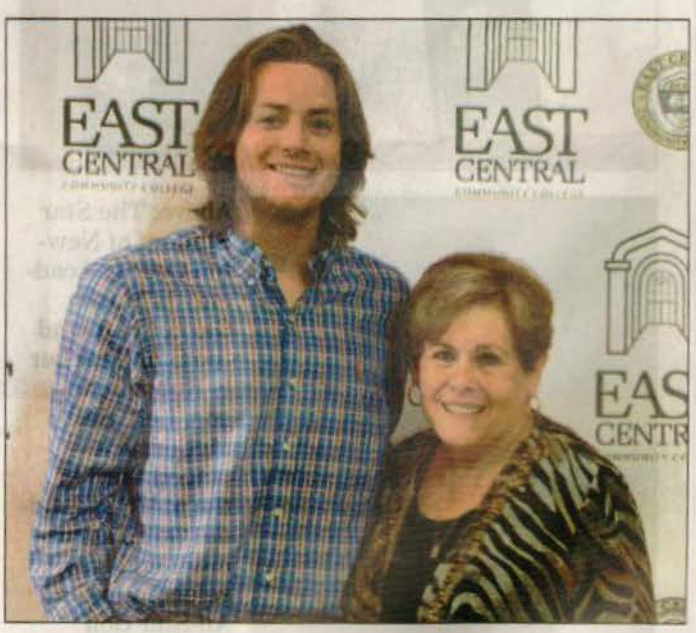

William Stewart (left), a graduate of Newton County High School, is the recipient of the John Grace Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is pictured with Carolyn Huey, a member of the college's Foundation Board of Directors, during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

WEEK OF JULY 12, 2015

Receives Myers Scholarship

Neshoba Central High School graduates Lee Bowen, left, and Breann Boatner, right, are the recipients of the Ben Myers Memorial Scholarships at East Central Community College in Decatur. They are shown with donor representative Jewel Parks during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium.

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WEEK OF JUN 12, 2015

Gordy receives ECCC's 'special award'

A Scott County student was among the recipients of "special" awards during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus.

Kristen Gordy of Forest received the Ann Burkes Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship Award.

The ceremony featured numerous students from across East Central Mississippi who received a variety of awards in the various programs offered at East Central Community College.

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WEEK OF July 12, 201

ECCC STUDENTS RECEIVE MUW SCHOLARSHIPS

Five East Central Community College sophomores received transfer scholarships to Mississippi University for Women, which were presented during the annual East Central Community College Awards Day ceremonies held recently in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Pictured from left, they include: Dominique Evans, Lawrence; Jessie Boatner, Philadelphia; Jenny Grove and Kimberly Harrison, both of Forest; and Haley Pierce, Noxapater.

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WEEK OF JUNE 5, 2014

Hannis, Malone win scholarship

Madison Hannis, left, a graduate of Leake Central High School, and Jaycie Malone, center, a Leake Academy graduate, receive congratulations for winning the South-Group Cox Scholarships at East Central Community College from George Taylor, a member of the college's foundation board of directors.

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WEEK OF JUN 5, 2015

Davila Receives Bank of Morton Scholarship

Crystal Davila (left), a graduate of Morton High School, is the recipient of the Bank of Morton Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with donor representative Gordy Herring during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587. (EC Photo)

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

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WEEK OF JULY 5, 2015

Triplett receives Thomas Scholarship

Khalil Triplett, left, a graduate of Philadelphia High School, is the recipient of the Charles and Judy Dowdle Thomas Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. He is shown with donor representative Judy Thomas during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program held June 12 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

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WEEK OF July 5, 2015

Quick captures award

Brandy Quick, left, a graduate of Leake Academy, receives accolades for winning the Jeffrey G. and Kathy L. Hitt Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College from donor representative Geraldine Hitt during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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WEEK OF JUNE 5, 2002

Burns takes Bowen award

Bobby Burns, left, a graduate of Leake Central High School, receives the Dr. Frank and Bobbie McPhail Bowen Scholarship at East Central Community College from David Boydstun, a member of the college's foundation board of directors.

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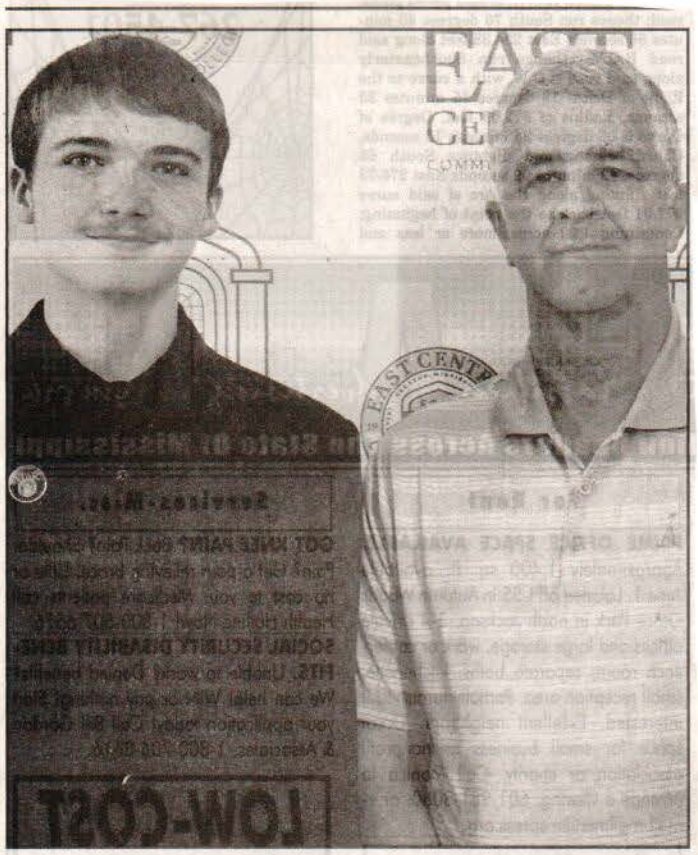
WEEK OF JUNE 5, 2015



Wooten wins award

Justin Wooten, left, a graduate of Leake County High School, receives the ATCO Loan, Inc. Scholarship at East Central Community College from James McRae during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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WEEK OF July 5, 2015

Barnett bags ECCC scholarship

Steven Barnett, left, a graduate of Leake Academy, receives plaudits for winning the Shirley Renaud Memorial Scholarship at East Central Community College from donor representative Joe Renaud during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Program.

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WEEK OF DEC. 13, 2015

ECCC PTK Inductees

Twenty-one East Central Community College students were recently inducted into Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, during fall ceremonies held on the Decatur campus. Inductees and their respective hometowns include, front row, from left, Christian Kelly, Lake; Lee Bowen, Philadelphia; Katherine Moran, Pascagoula; Genieveve Nichols, Newton; Haley Ezelle, Carthage; Melanie Brashier, Decatur; Chandler Posey and Kimberly Watkins, both of Philadelphia; Jasmine Payton, Carthage; and Cheyenne Bradley, Union; and (second row, from left) Brittany Rasco, Pascagoula; Austin Anderton, Carthage; Brady McElhenney, Union; Shelly Dowell, Lena; Erick Bishop and Samm Thompson, both of Decatur; Taylor Phillips, Emily Crenshaw, Kinsey Gentry and Sydney Battle, all of Philadelphia; and Kaitlin Thrash, Madison. Phi Theta Kappa's mission is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming. To qualify, students must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework that may be applied to an associate degree and must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Amanda Walton, workforce education counselor; mathematics instructor Jenna Wright and James Miller, dean of students, serve as advisers. (EC Photo)

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East Central

WEEK OF Dec. 13, 2015

East Central Community College showcased art in nearly all its forms Dec. 1 as it hosted its second annual Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular at 7 p.m. in the Huff Auditorium. Right: The Collegians perform the Christmas classic "Rocking around the Christmas Tree" at the East Central Community College's Christmas Spectacular on Dec. 2 in the Huff Auditorium. Immediately below: Female singers in The Collegians perform "Jingle Bell Rock." The event featured around 300 EC students including students from the music, arts and culinary arts department.

Demetrius Thompson/The Appeal

showcases students in spectacular

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WEEK OF Dec 13, 2015

Left: The ECCC Wall O' Sound Band performs a medley of Christmas carols in the aisles of Huff Auditorium to close out the performances at the second annual Christmas Spectacular. Immediately Above: The East Central Christmas Band performs during the second annual Christmas Spectacular event on Dec. 1 in Huff Auditorium. The event is the final fall event of the art department's Cultural Art Series which was started by Vicki Blaylock, ECCC fine arts department chair, in 2014 as a way to bring performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both students and the commu-

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WEEK OF Dec. 13

East Central's Wall O' Sound to march in inauguration parade

170-member band will help usher in Phil Bryant's second term

By ECCC Media Relations

The East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Marching Band will participate in the Inaugural Parade for Mississippi's Gov. Phil Bryant at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, in downtown Jackson.

Director Ed Girling received the invitation on Dec. 8 from Inaugural staff member Gordon McMullin on behalf of Governor Bryant and the First Lady.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the college in general and specifically for our band program, Girling said. "The inaugural parade only comes around once every four year and participation is by invitation. For most of our students, this will be their only chance to participate in history. What an honor for the college and the band."

Following the inaugural ceremonies, the governor and his family will make their way to the Governor's Mansion, leading a procession of ceremonial military regiments, citizens' groups, marching bands and floats.

The governor, his family and other elected officials will then view the parade as it passes in front of the grandstand in front of the mansion.

The 2015 edition of the Wall O' Sound boasts 170 members and performed for each home football game and for selected road games and Christmas parades.

The band's most recent performance was during the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove, Texas, where the Warrior football team defeated Kilgore College 35-21.

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These students at East Central Community College in Decatur were recently named to Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges for 2015. Stu
were nominated by faculty and staff and are chosen based on academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular clubs and organizations. Students and their respe
hometowns include, from left, (first row) Alisha Savell, Philadelphia; Brittney Rawson, Forest; Anna Claire Webb, Noxapater; Morgan Orr, Louisville; BriAnna Bout, Dec
Nina LaBue, Conehatta; Rashada Boler, Philadelphia; Keri Ann Mayfield, Union; Kaylee Yates, Decatur; Hannah May, Little Rock; Fallon Beckham, Philadelphia; Rebecca
Decatur; Brittany Bryan, Morton; Layne Lepard, Philadelphia; (second row) Megan Parrish, Pascagoula; Tatyana Johnson, Walnut Grove; Cole Duty, Louisville; Zack Hamr
Raleigh; Courtney Williams, Hickory; Bree Burnley, Kosciusko; Mary Levin, Philadelphia; Kara Yates, Morton; Madelon Taylor, Louisville; Hannah Mitchell, Lawrence; Pa
Kelley-Johnson, Gulfport; Lindsay Hedge, Forest; Katie Fortenberry, Raleigh; Alexa Roberts, Hickory; Alana Knowles, Decatur; (third row) Shelly Dowell, Lena; Skylar Davi
Morton; Lalah McMullan, Decatur; Reagan Fleming and Joelie Hill, both of Louisville; Sydney Keith, Philadelphia; Kaley Bufkin and AnnaLea Clarke, both of Decatur;
Johnston, Lake; William Mott and Louise Berryhill, both of Decatur; Clarissa Smith, Philadelphia; Lillian Shuler, Carthage; Brittany Rasco, Pascagoula; Brandi Kilpatrick, U
Kimberly Watkins and Macken'z Smith, both of Philadelphia; (fourth row) Sam Mitchell, Decatur; Taylor Lott, Forest; Gabby Stapp, Gulfport; Allie Turner, Horn Lake;
Golden, Petal; Carrissa Stevenson, Gulfport; Brooke Payne, Union; Devin Skinner, Philadelphia; Dylan Jones, Louisville; Stephen Stewart, Decatur; Evan Derrick, Morton;
Terry, Newton; Anthony Emmons, Lake; Dylan Snypes, State Line; Jacob McNeil, Pineville; Matthew Mitchell, Lake; Chris Yarbrough, Florence; (back row, from left) P
Caine, Hickory; Durham Norman, Florence; D.K. Boydstun, Louisville; John Hedrick, Newton; John Thames, Magee; Thomas Nazary and Taylor Nazary, both of Carthage; Mi
Whitlock, Philadelphia; Kellen Clark, Chunky; Reed Fisher, Hickory; Mason Wooldridge, Collinsville; Jacob Huff, Puckett; Taylor Creighton, Stonewall; Reagan Warren, Cone
Michael Davis, Clinton; and Ben Pace, Philadelphia.

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ECCC students selected for 2015 Who's Who

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WEEK OF 12/6/15

The ECCC Wall O'Sound performs at the Newton Christmas Parade on Thursday night

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WEEK OF 11/22/15

ECCC to present 'Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular' Dec. 1

Special to The Star

DECATUR – The East Central Community College Fine Arts Department will present a "Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular" Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. in Huff Auditorium on campus.

The presentation is being held as part of the college's second annual Cultural Arts Series. Tickets are $15 per person. A reception in the Molly McGee Gold Room will follow the performances.

The Christmas Spectacular serves as a fundraiser for the Series and will feature performances by various East Central musical groups, including the Concert Choir, Voce, Wall O' Sound Band, and various other ensembles. The art department will also present a display of various mediums.

The Cultural Arts series brings performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community, according to Vicki Blaylock, ECCC Fine Arts Department Chair.

"I hope through the effort of the Cultural Arts Series we can afford all the students at East Central, not just the music majors, an opportunity to enhance their education by providing these cultural opportunities," Blaylock said.

For more information, contact Vicki Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or email vblaylock@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF 11/15/15

ECCC hosts FBLA-PBL conference

East Central Community College alumna Leslie Nash (center) was the keynote speaker at the Mississippi Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda Fall Leadership Conference held recently on the ECCC campus in Decatur. The conference was hosted by ECCC's Theta Chi Chapter of PBL. Nash, who graduated from East Central in 2008, is the executive producer for WJTV 12 in Jackson. The Union native was president of PBL while a student at East Central Community College, winning four first-place awards at both the state and national level PBL competitions. In 2009, Nash was inducted into the Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame. Phi Beta Lambda is the premier business education association preparing students for careers in business and success in life. Shown with Nash prior to her address titled "Successfully Managing Social Media" are (from left) Christy Ferguson, business and office technology instructor and advisor of ECCC's PBL Chapter, and ECCC student Caleb Brown of Philadelphia, president of the state of Mississippi PBL organization.

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WEEK OF 11/15/15

Concert choir

The East Central Community College Concert Choir (pictured), along with the Newton County High School choir, will present Handel's "Messiah" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. There is no charge for admission and the public is invited to attend. The program will be lead by Vicki Blaylock, ECCC fine arts division chair and choral director, and Suzanne Cain, NCHS choral director. ECCC choir members and their respective hometowns include (front row, from left) Kaylee Yates, Decatur; Sarah Hall, Philadelphia; Madelon Taylor, Louisville; Ryan Mott, Decatur; Taylor Russell, Louisville; Malcolm McBride, Auburn, Ala.; Kieron Croff, Decatur; Euphrates Jones, Clarksdale; Kayla Skinner, Enterprise; and Hannah Mitchell, Lawrence; (second row, from left) Anna Claire Webb, Noxapater; Anna Katherine Wells and Karla Higginbotham, both of Louisville; Mackenzie Gray, Mendenhall; Anthony Emmons, Lake; Landon Bounds, Union; Taylor Lott, Forest; Garrett McDill, Sebastopol; Troy Gregory, Decatur; Sylvia Thames, Decatur; Adrianna Crout and Anastasia Crout, both of Lake; and Rebecca Tero, Decatur; (third row, from left) Kaishanna Young and Crisann Bryan, both of Philadelphia; Katherine Fortenberry, Raleigh; Kaitlyn Ware, Lake; Radiance Wright, Decatur; Cheston Jones, Louisville; Austin Anderton, Carthage; Ethan Dunavant, Newton; Ben Pace, Philadelphia; Courtney Tillman, Decatur; Hope Hennington, Little Rock; Alexandria Crout, Lake; and AnnaLea Clarke, Decatur; (fourth row, from left) Stephanie Griffin, Carthage; Cassie Pearson, Louisville; Rachel Brand, Hickory; Jessica Lanthrip, Sebastopol; Alyssa Chesney, Decatur; Daniel McMahan, Little Rock; Stephen Stewart and Kirk Griffin, both of Decatur; Brad Taylor, Stratton; Luke Clark and Samuel Tero, both of Decatur; Celeste McDonald, Lena; Sarah Laird, Meridian; and Randi Kelly, Philadelphia; and (back row, from left) Eariel Campbell, Union; Kaelin Gentry, Kinsey Gentry, Lea Anthony and Paige Brown, all of Philadelphia; Darryl Rogers, Laurel; Graham Murphree, Little Rock; David Wilson, Decatur; Zachary Emmons, Lake; Austin Gray, Philadelphia; Caleb Vaughn, Decatur; Kiarra McDonald and Destiny Files, both of Philadephia; and Jade Bishop, Sebastopol. Not pictured is Victoria Manning, Quitman; and Elias Jimmie, Choctaw. For more information, contact Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or e-mail vblaylock@eccc.edu. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF 11/15/15

Healthfest

Health Sciences Core Students Attend Healthfest

Health Sciences Core students at Winston-Louisville Career and Technology Center attended the Healthfest at ECCC on Thursday, October 22nd. Students had the opportunity to tour all of the health programs offered at ECCC and hear directly from students in the programs about each one.

The students also participated in a texting and driving activity to show the negative impacts that this can have on one's concentration. A texting and driving scene was shown to the students and simulation of how each healthcare professional assists in the care of the injured/fatalities during a traumatic accident. Students in Health Sciences Core are learning about all of the health careers and planning for their future. This field trip was a great opportunity for the students to see and experience the college atmosphere and life in the world of healthcare. Health Sciences Core is taught by Penny Wells, RN.

Pictured left to right front row:Kayla Lovern, Kaitlin Nyholm, Ty Duran, Diana Richardson, Javier Hunt, Netykianna Gladney, Tyasia Roberson, Lexus Riggs

Row 2 L to R: Madelyn Wilkes, Morgan Luke, Laura Verry,Haley Smith, Tristen McDill, Penny Wells, Lakiaa Triplett, Marcella Cole, Tatiana Jones,Damaya Wilmer

Row 3 L to R: La'Precious Carter,Star Batts, Savannah Watkins, Lily Coleman, Dixie Jackson, Christopher Baker, Niyah Raine, Chelsey Kelley, Laquinton Kelley, Danielle Eaves, Jadea Shannon, Adrienne Forsythe, Andrea Hardin, Amber Humphries, Cijah Carter, Justin Nicholson, Jana Moore, Depodre Carter

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WEEK OF Nov 2015

ECCC to pilot 4-day class schedule beginning January

East Central Community College will implement a pilot four-day class schedule beginning with the spring 2016 semester in January aimed at enhancing student success and teaching and learning.

The college's Board of Trustees approved the two-semester pilot initiative at its September meeting.

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart said a four-day class schedule has been shown to improve student completion and retention rates at other community colleges in Mississippi, which aligns with ECCC's 2020 Vision strategic plan.

"Two of the institutional commitments of 2020 Vision are Student Success and Teaching and Learning," said Stewart, who initiated the strategic planning process in 2012. "Everything we do is aimed at ensuring the academic and life success of our students. Research at colleges we consulted that are currently operating on a four-day class schedule indicates that student learning is enhanced, and that is what we hope the four-day class schedule will accomplish at East Central Community College."

Under the pilot program, the college will hold classes Monday through Thursday, with Friday being devoted to learning and studying opportunities for students and professional development and advising opportunities for faculty.

"Fridays will be an opportunity for students to participate in learning activities outside of the classroom, such as internships and the Success Center, as well as band, choir, intercollegiate athletics and other extracurricular activities," explained Stewart. "Faculty will be available for office visits from students, prepare for classes, and have time to attend professional development opportunities."

Stewart said that the college's healthcare programs as well as the cosmetology program will continue to meet five days a week because of the number of training/clinical hours required by state boards and agencies. There could also be some academic science labs on Friday if necessary to accommodate student need.

Stewart stressed that the college will operate as normal on Fridays, with the exception of a full slate of classes. Residence halls will maintain their current operational times. The main cafeteria will remain open as usual on Fridays, and will adjust its breakfast, lunch and dinner hours Monday through Thursday to accommodate students under the new class schedule.

It is anticipated that Monday and Wednesday class periods in the four-day class schedule will mirror the current Tuesday and Thursday class periods, which are an hour and 20 minutes in length.

Holmes, Meridian, Mississippi Delta and Northeast Mississippi community colleges in Mississippi all operate on a four-day class schedule. East Central administrators visited Northeast Mississippi Community College in the spring 2015, and consulted with the other colleges.

Stewart said while East Central's goal is to enhance student success and learning opportunities, there are other benefits of a four-day class schedule.

East Central students will now have more and longer activity periods during the week. The four-day class schedule will allow for four, 50-minute activity periods each week for student organizations and clubs to meet as well as students to eat lunch. Commuter students should realize a savings in fuel costs, and students with part-time jobs will have the opportunity to work an extra shift on Fridays if they desire, among other advantages.

"Our peer institutions have found that the four-day class schedule also greatly benefits non-traditional students who find it easier to schedule classes around full-time employment," Stewart added. "We also believe it will help us provide a better learning and teaching environment for our students and faculty because we will be able to perform building, technology and other maintenance in many instructional facilities on Fridays."

East Central administrators held two open forums with faculty and staff prior to presenting the four-day class schedule pilot initiative to the Board of Trustees, which resulted in ideas and potential issues that are being addressed prior to implementation.

The pilot four-day class schedule will be used during both the spring 2016 and fall 2016 semesters so that the college can study the effects of the schedule for a full year, including for first-time incoming freshmen who enter East Central in August 2016.

Faculty and student surveys will be administered and data measurements on student academic performance will be evaluated during the two pilot semesters before determining whether to recommend adoption of the four-day class schedule long-term.

Stewart said surveys at other institutions show that faculty and students prefer the four-day class schedule and believe it has enhanced teaching and learning.

"We have stressed from the beginning that this is simply a pilot program and may or may not be as successful at East Central Community College as it has been at our peer institutions," Stewart noted. "But our 2020 Vision strategic plan charges us with continually seeking ways to provide the best possible education for our students through the intentional implementation of evidence-based initiatives so they can achieve their full potential and meet their life goals, and we believe a four-day class schedule has the potential to do just that."

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WEEK OF NOV. 2, 2015

'Collegians' slate fall concert

East Central Community College's rock-n-roll band, "The Collegians," will present a free fall concert at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, in Huff Auditorium in Decatur campus.

The group will perform hits by Ozzy Osbourne, Elle King, Shawn Mendes, Ed Sheeran, The Band Perry, Rachel Platten, One Direction and more.

Members and their respective high schools include Garrett McDill, Sebastopol; Danny Smith, Leake Central; and Sam Mitchell, Leake Academy.

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WEEK OF NOV. 8, 2015

ECCC sets 'Christmas Spectacular'

The East Central Community College Fine Arts Department will present a "Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, in Huff Auditorium in Decatur, part of the college's second annual Cultural Arts Series.

Tickets will be $15 per person. A reception in the Molly McGee Gold Room will follow the performances.

The spectacular serves as a fund raiser for the series and will feature performances by East Central musical groups, including the Concert Choir, Voce, Wall O' Sound . The art department will also present a display of various mediums.

For more information, telephone Vicki Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or email vblaylock@eccc.edu.

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WEEK OF NOV. 1, 2015

Members of the East Central Community College Cheer Squad participated in the Cougar Buck Cash-in Days by giving those who "purchased" the Cheer Camp option opportunity to sharpen their skills. The Rewards' Day was part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Initiative at Newton County Elementary School.

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WEEK OF November 11, 2015

ECCC To Present 'Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular' Dec. 1

The East Central Community College Fine Arts Department will present a "Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, 2015, in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus.

The presentation is being held as part of the college's second annual Cultural Arts Series. Tickets are $15 per person. A reception in the Molly McGee Gold Room will follow the performances.

The Christmas Spectacular serves as a fundraiser for the Series and will feature performances by various East Central musical groups, including the Concert Choir, Voce, Wall O' Sound Band, and various other ensembles. The art department will also present a display of various mediums.

The Cultural Arts series brings performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community, according to Vicki Blaylock, ECCC Fine Arts Department Chair.

"I hope through the effort of the Cultural Arts Series we can afford all the students at East Central, not just the music majors, an opportunity to enhance their education by providing these cultural opportunities," Blaylock said.

For more information, contact Vicki Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or email vblaylock@eccc.edu.

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EEK OF _ _____

ECCC Collegians to Present Fall Concert Nov. 17

East Central Community College's rock-n-roll band, "The Collegians," will present its annual fall campus concert at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16 in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. There is no charge for admission and the public is invited to attend. The popular group will perform hits by Ozzy Osbourne, Elle King, Shawn Mendes, Ed Sheeran, The Band Perry, Rachel Platten, One Direction and many more. Members and their respective high school include (fr

Wells, Winston Academy; Aleia Sharp, Union; Tallie Johnston, a homeschooler from Lake; (second row, from left) Chris Kelley, Newton; Peyton Jones, Nanih Waiya; Dustin Morgan, Union; and Anastasia Crout, Lake; (third row, from left) Caleb Franklin, Morton; Garrett McDill, Sebastopol; and Houston Martin and Brad Taylor, both of Newton County; (fourth row, from left) Stephen Stewart, Newton County; Anna Claire Webb, Noxapater; and Michael Buntyn and Graham Murphree, both of Newton County; (fifth row, from left) Lucas Bates, Lake; Ryan Packer and Hannah Mitchell, both of Newton County; Danny Smith, Carthage; and Evan Derrick, Morton; and (back row, from left) Troy Gregory, Newton County; Christian Richardson, Union; Sam Mitchell, Leake Academy; and Christian Bounds, Lake. (EC Photo)

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WEEK OF 06.13

Sophomore Skylar Davidson (second from left) of Morton was crowned Homecoming Queen at East Central Community College in Decatur during ceremonies held October 17 at Bailey Stadium. Davidson received her crown from College President Dr. Billy W. Stewart (left) during halftime of the Warriors' 47-17 victory over Southwest Mississippi Community College. Serving as Miss Davidson's escort was Matt Mitchell of Lake. At right is 2014 queen Nikki Triplett of Forest who presented the new queen with a bouquet of roses.

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WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

Local on the court

ECCC Homecoming Court

Members of the 2015 Homecoming Court at East Central Community College in Decatur included (front row, from left) freshman maids Codi Ballard of Decatur, Makenzie Byrd of Sebastopol, Emily Dykeman of Forest and Aerial Green of Carthage; queen Skylar Davidson of Morton; maid of honor Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg; and sophomore maids Shelly Dowell of Lena, Anna Claire Webb of Noxapater and Kaylee Yates of Decatur; and (back row, from left) escorts Nathaniel Thorne of Decatur, Colton Tharp of Sebastopol, Tomaz McNair of Forest, Trey Kellum of Newton, Matt Mitchell of Lake, Gary Willis of Philadelphia, Reagan Warren of Decatur, Brian Austin Snow of Noxapater and Devin Skinner of Philadelphia. The queen and her court were presented Saturday, October 17, during halftime of the ECCC vs. Southwest Mississippi Community College football game. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ____

NEWTON COUNTY AP ____

SPIRIT OF MORTON ____

MERIDIAN STAR ____

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MES ____

JOURNAL ____

WEEK OF Oct 18, 2015

ECCC HOMECOMING

Paula Merritt / The Meridian Star

Dr. Billy W. Stewart, president of East Central Community College, crowns Skylar Davidson ECCC's Homecoming Queen Saturday in Decatur. Davidson, of Morton, was escorted by Matt Mitchell of Lake.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON X

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

Week of Oct. 18, 2015

Carthaginian _____

Clarion-Ledger _____

Meridian Star _____

Neshoba Democrat _____

Newton Appeal ✓

choose ECCC

Wilcher of Edinburg said she too chose ECCC to be close to home.

Wilcher is a freshman mechanical engineering major and the daughter of Mark and Jodi Wilcher.

Newton County's Distinguished Young Woman Codi Ballard of Decatur said she chose ECCC to be a cheerleader and because of the scholarships offered.

The freshman pre-medicine major is a Warrior Cheerleader, president of the freshman class for the SBA and a member of Warrior Corps, Diamond Darlings, Environmental Club, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau. She is the daughter of Marty and Tonya Ballard and Chris and Jessica Weems.

Neshoba County's Distinguished Young Woman Taylor Phillips of Philadelphia said being close to home was important in her college choice.

In addition, Phillips said, "EC provides a good transition to a university."

The freshman pre-dental major is the daughter of Lee and Michelle Phillips. She is a member of Warrior Corps, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Diamond Darlings, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and Centralettes dance line.

Winston County's Distinguished Young Woman Paige Johnson of Louisville said she chose ECCC because she has "always wanted to be an EC Centralette and because EC has such great teachers and scholarships."

The pre-dental freshman is the daughter of Jeannie and Larry Johnson. She is a member of the Centralettes dance line and Warrior Corps.

WEEK OF Oct. 18, 2015

Five Distinguished Young Women

All five current Distinguished Young Women from the East Central Community College district are attending the college this academic year.

Dr. Randall Lee, vice president for student services at ECCC, said being able to attract top students such as those who are Distinguished Young Women is a testament to the college's outstanding academic programs.

"East Central Community College is a strong supporter of the Distinguished Young Women program, and what it represents: scholastics, fitness, and character," said Lee.

"We have always valued these top students. As evidence, numerous former DYW winners have attended ECCC and we are proud that the Distinguished Young Women from each of the five counties in ECCC's district chose to attend East Central this year despite having scholarship offers from colleges all across Mississippi."

Pictured are Distinguished Young Women from the college's five-county district, (from left) Charlie Wilcher, Leake County; Taylor Phillips, Neshoba County; Mackenzie Byrd, Scott County; Codi Ballard, Newton County; and Paige Johnson, Winston County. For more information about ECCC, call 1-877-G02-ECCC or visit www.eccc.edu. (EC PHOTO)

Distinguished Young Women is the largest and oldest national scholarship program for high school females.

Scott County's Distinguished Young Woman Mackenzie Byrd of Sebastopol is a freshman pre-medicine major. She is the daughter of Michea McLemore and Kevin Byrd. Byrd is the captain of the Centralettes dance line, freshman vice president of the Student Body Association (SBA) and a member of Warrior Corps, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and Students Against Destructive Decisions.

Byrd said she knew she wanted to stay close to home for her first college years.

"I felt that East Central would help me make the transition into the real world before attending a university," she said. "After I came on a tour of the campus, I felt as though all of the faculty members were concerned about me and my education."

Leake County's Distinguished Young Woman Charlie

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ____
NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X
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MERIDIAN STAR ____
NESHOBA DEMOCRAT ____
SCOTT COUNTY TIMES ____
WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X
CLARION-LEDGER ____

WEEK OF Oct. 11, 2015

Fireworks show highlights EC's homecoming pep rally

A fireworks show, a performance by the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, and presentation of the 2015 Homecoming Court are just some of the activities planned for East Central Community College's Homecoming Pep Rally scheduled Thursday at Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

The annual event gets underway at 7 p.m. with the introduction of Homecoming Queen Skylar Davidson of Morton and her court by ECCC president Dr. Billy Stewart.

The Wall O' Sound Marching Band follows the presentation by performing the Warrior Fight Song as football players and coaches enter the stadium.

Also scheduled are performances by the Warrior Cheerleaders and Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound.

Third-year head football coach Ken Karcher will provide remarks and introduce team captains for the Homecoming game against Southwest Mississippi Community College, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, at 2:30 p.m. at Bailey Stadium.

Activities conclude with the fireworks show.

The public is invited to attend the free event.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Oct 11, 2015

ECCC Homecoming Pep Rally Set Thursday, Oct. 15

A fireworks show, a performance by the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, and presentation of the 2015 Homecoming Court are just some of the activities planned for East Central Community College's Homecoming Pep Rally scheduled Thursday, Oct. 15, at Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

The annual event gets underway at 7 p.m. with the introduction of Homecoming Queen Skylar Davidson of Morton and her court by ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart.

The Wall O' Sound Marching Band follows the presentation by performing the Warrior Fight Song as football players and coaches enter the stadium.

Also scheduled are performances by the Warrior Cheerleaders and Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound.

Third-year Head Football Coach Ken Karcher will provide remarks and introduce team captains for the Homecoming game against Southwest Mississippi Community College, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, at 2:30 p.m.in Bailey Stadium.

Activities conclude with the fireworks show.

The public is invited to attend the free event.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON X

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF October 2015

ECCC Homecoming Court

Pictured are members of the 2015 Homecoming Court at East Central Community College, who were selected during elections held recently on the Decatur campus. Pictured are (front row, from left) sophomore maids Kaylee Yates of Decatur and Anna Claire Webb of Noxapater, Queen Skylar Davidson of Morton, Maid of Honor Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg, and sophomore maid Shelly Dowell of Lena; and (back row, from left) freshman maids Emily Dykeman of Forest, Makenzie Byrd of Sebastopol, Codi Ballard of Decatur, and Aerial Green of Carthage. The queen and her court will be presented during halftime of the Warriors' Homecoming battle with Southwest Mississippi Community College scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 in Bailey Stadium. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON X

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT X

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

East Central elects campus leaders

OF October 11, 2015

Pictured are 2015-16 student government officers at East Central Community College in Decatur. Students and their respective hometowns include (front row, from left) freshman class officers Hannah Payne, treasurer, of Union; Taylor Fulkerson, secretary, of Conehatta; Codi Ballard, president, of Decatur; and Makenzie Byrd, vice president, of Sebastopol; (second row, from left) sophomore class officers Devin Skinner, vice president, of Philadelphia, and Dylan Jones, treasurer, of Louisville; (third row, from left) sophomore class officers Anna Claire Webb, secretary, of Noxapater, and Kaley Bufkin, president, of Decatur; and (back row, from left) Student Body Association officers Keri Ann Mayfield, secretary, of Union; Kaylee Yates, president, of Decatur; Skylar Davidson, vice president, of Morton; and Shelly Dowell, treasurer, of Lena. EC Photo

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

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MERIDIAN STAR _____

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF October - 2015

ECCC announces Phi Beta Lambda officers

Serving as Phi Beta Lambda officers at East Central Community College in Decatur are from left (front), Cris Ann Bryan, president, and Kimberly Watkins, vice president, both of Philadelphia; and (back) Lane Wooten of Carthage, reporter, and Caleb Brown, social media chair, and Katie Hillman, secretary, both of Philadelphia. Phi Beta Lambda is an organization for students interested in business-related careers.

EC Photo

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Sept. 27, 2015

ECCC CULTURAL ARTS SERIES

Submitted photo

Wednesday's piano recital featuring East Central Community College instructor Dr. Justin Sharp will kick off the second season of the college's Cultural Arts Series. The recital will begin at 1 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center on the Decatur campus. Sharp joined the ECCC faculty in August and serves as music/keyboard instructor. He previously served as an adjunct instructor at ECCC, a consultant in the development of Early Childhood Music Curriculum and as a private piano instructor. The Cultural Arts Series began as a way to bring performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community, according to Vicki Blaylock, ECCC Fine Arts Department chair. For more information, contact Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or e-mail vblaylock@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

ECCC Astronomy Club to host viewing of lunar eclipse

Special to The Star

Weather permitting, the Astronomy Club of East Central Community College in Decatur will host a viewing with telescopes of the total lunar eclipse on Sunday beginning at 7:30 p.m. on the East Central campus. The viewing will be set up in front of the Huff Auditorium Building on West Broad Street.

As the full moon rises in the east, at 8:07 p.m. it enters the main shadow of the earth, appearing as though a nibble is taken out of the moon's northwest. The moon will be entirely eclipsed at 9:10 p.m.; will be darkest at 9:47 p.m.; and will appear a different color from brown to red to orange, but cannot be exactly predicted. Totality ends at 10:24 p.m. from the southwest area of the moon, and will have completely exited the earth's main shadow at 11:27 p.m.

Observers are encouraged to use binoculars for personal viewing of the eclipse of the moon, and visitors can look through the college's telescopes at the eclipse to 11 p.m. and view the planet Saturn beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The East Central Astronomy Club's President Anna Claire Housley said, "Considering the last one this spectacular occurred in 1982, before I was even born, I am excited to experience this rare and educational event."

If you need additional information, contact Bill Wagnon at 205-540-0515.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Sept. 20, 2015

ECCC announces homecoming honorees

East Central Community College will recognize Alumni Association award recipients during the annual Homecoming celebration scheduled Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015, on the Decatur campus.

Polly Matthews Gordon (Class of 1954) of Union is this year's Alumna of the Year and Dr. Jack C. Evans (Class of 1972) of Laurel was selected Alumnus of the Year.

Former football standout and coach Dan Chatwood (Class of 1959) of Fairhope, Ala., and Forest native and former football player Thomas Hannah (Class of 1958) of Spartanburg, S.C., are this year's Athletic Hall of Fame inductees.

Gordon is a retired teacher and counselor, having spent the majority of her 52-year career at Union High School.

In addition to her long and rewarding career in education, Gordon has also been heavily involved in community activities.

She has been a member of the Union Present Day Club since 1959 and has served in various leadership roles, including three terms as president. She was selected Club Woman of the Year in 2006. Gordon has also served on the district level for the General Federation of Women's Clubs/Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC/MFWC).

Evans is beginning his 33rd year as a family physician with Laurel Family Clinic, which provides traditional primary care in family medicine.

Among Evans' honors are his selection as the sixth recipient of the Arthur Derrick Award, given annually to a physician for outstanding efforts to contribute to the quality of medical care in Mississippi.

He was also elected by his medical peers to The Best Doctors in America for the past 15 years and was named Laurel Leader Call's Best Doctor on four occasions, an honor based on a public opinion poll hosted by the local newspaper.

Chatwood was a member of the 1957 and 1958 EC football teams, where he was a standout halfback and at times played on defense for the Warriors.

He continued his playing career at the University of Chattanooga and later returned to East Central and served as an assistant football coach. He became head coach in 1965.

During his tenure leading the Warriors, East Central won the Exchange Bowl Championship and Chatwood was named Mississippi Junior College 'Coach of the Year' for the 1965 season. He was also elected to serve as president of the Mississippi Junior College Coaches Association.

Hannah was a member of the 1956 and 1957 Warrior football teams before continuing his athletic career at the University of South Carolina, where he played two seasons for the Gamecocks.

He is a member of the University of South Carolina Association of Letterman and received both the bachelor's and master's degrees from USC. He is also a graduate of the University of North Carolina's Executive Program and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.

Mr. Hannah retired as president, chief executive officer, and board member of Collins and Aikman, an organization engaged primarily in the design, engineering and manufacture of automotive interior components, systems and modules, in 1998.

Hannah is currently president and chief executive officer of USLC, LLC, which has manufacturing plants in Nicaragua.

Several reunion groups and numerous activities are also scheduled as part of ECCC's 2015 Homecoming celebration.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations and the Foundation, 601-635-6327, toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 327, or email sholling@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Davis

Spinks

Brock

Beasley-Nelson

Banks

Wolverton

Jordan

Jones

• **Lewis Davis** represented Northeast High School at the 2015 HOBY Conference at Millsaps College.

Davis, who is a junior at Northeast High School, was selected from 127 candidates.

• SCOOBA – East Mississippi Community College art instructor **Lisa Spinks'** drawing "Sneakers" won her first place in the drawing category at Meridian Museum of Art's People's Choice competition. Spinks has taught art at EMCC for eight years.

The colored pencil drawing of Spinks's shoes netted her $100 and the chance to have her piece, along with another of her drawings titled "Heels," displayed at the museum and entered into the Bi-State Juried Art Competition.

• DECATUR – East Central Community College faculty member **Daniele Brock**, who provides instruction for the college's First Year Experience program, was one of five national finalists for the 2015 "Excellence in Online Teaching" award presented by Pearson.

Each year, Pearson honors educators who are making a significant contribution to online learning. Nominees were submitted by administrators in K-12 education, higher education and the corporate environment. Pearson is the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 80 countries working to help people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives through learning.

• **TiAndrea Beasley-Nelson** of Meridian was recently selected Basic Computer Instructor- Twin District Workforce Area at East Central Community College.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, she served as fourth grade mathematics instructor at T.J. Harris Upper Elementary School in Meridian. From 2008 to 2011, she served as a graduate and teaching assistant at Mississippi State University.

Beasley-Nelson received her bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in instructional technology from Mississippi State University.

• **Andrea Banks** has been selected to receive the Meridian Exchange Club/Bo Russell Memorial Scholarship at Meridian Community College.

This $1,400 award is funded through the MCC Foundation by the local civic organization.

Banks is a 2015 high honors graduate of West Lauderdale High School, where she was a member of HOSA, Tech Masters, Mississippi Scholar and a recipient of the MCC Leadership Scholarship. She is in the Associate Degree Nursing Program at MCC, and works for Subway and Okatibbee Creek Fish Camp.

After receiving her associate degree, Banks will continue her education to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner.

• **Tori Wolverton** has been selected to receive the Gerry Wayne Purvis Scholarship at Meridian Community College.

This $2,000 award was established with the MCC Foundation by Betty Purvis to honor her husband for his service as president of the Foundation Board of Directors and his commitment to education. Mr. Purvis has been named to the College's Hall of Fame, a recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves in their vocational field.

Wolverton, a 2014 valedictorian graduate of Southeast Lauderdale High School, is in the University Transfer Program at MCC and is a President's List scholar. She works part-time at Ross Dress for Less. Wolverton is a member of the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College and is an officer of Phi Theta Kappa.

Wolverton's goal is to earn a master's degree in aerospace engineering with a focus in astronautics from Mississippi State University. Her ultimate goal is to work for NASA.

• **Chelsea Jordan** and **Sonya Jones** have been selected to receive the Jerry Greene Hotel and Restaurant Supply Scholarship at Meridian Community College.

These awards are funded through the MCC Foundation by the local food service equipment dealer. A member of the MCC Foundation Board of Directors, Greene is a recipient of the prestigious Hartley D. Peavey Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence. Students in the Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology Program are chosen for these scholarships.

Jordan, a 2011 honors graduate of Enterprise High School, is a freshman in the Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology Program at MCC. In 2014, she graduated with high honors from the Graphic Design Technology Program at MCC.

Jordan's goal is to open her own catering/event planning business with her sister.

Jones, a 1996 graduate of Meridian High School, is a sophomore in the Culinary Arts Technology Program at MCC. She is a Dean's List scholar and works part-time at Weidmann's Restaurant in Meridian. She is a member of the Colligate DECA.

After graduation, Jones plans to enter the workforce and learn everything she can about the restaurant business and one day own her own restaurant.

ECCC Wall O' Sound Marching Band

Members of the 2015 ECCC Wall O' Sound Marching Band are shown during their annual "Show and Tell" performance at the conclusion of pre-season band camp. Neshoba County students who are members of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College in Decatur and their respective high schools include Triston Coats, Tommy Burnside, Sara Thorne, Kelcey Burrage, Aleaya Carothers, Erin Cumberland, Destiny Files, Cami Goodin, Cardale Greer, Jonathan Keen, Taylor Phillips, Coco Porter, Kimberly Smith, Landon Bounds, Austin Gray, Thashanna Jackson, Jacolby Jenkins, Ticondria Gray and Mary Levin, all of Neshoba Central; Cole Atkison, Mariah Boyd, Hailey Clark, Tasha Dixon, Stafford Griffin, Stephanie Griffin, Madison Hannis, Angel Johnson, Tristen Johnston, Patricia Jones, Shannon Keene, Daleshia Leflore, Keyanna Luckett and Lorrie Moore, all of Leake Central; Te-Anna Viverette, Leake County; Kobe York and Cristen Jim, both of Choctaw Central. Hunter Corhern is beginning his fourth year as ECCC Director of Bands. Additional staff members include Ed Girling, assistant director; Tina Sanders, Centralette coordinator/choreographer; and Kelsey Sikes, Color Guard coordinator.

DEMOCRAT X
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COUNTY JOURNAL
EDGER

2015-16 ECCC Cheerleaders

Members of the 2015-16 cheerleading squad at East Central Community College in Decatur and their respective high schools include, front row, from left, Aerial Green, Leake Central; Brittney Rawson, Leake Academy; Codi Ballard, Newton County; Shelby Hemphill, Leake Academy; Keri Ann Mayfield, Union; Sydney Keith, Leake Academy; and Megan Miles, Lake; and, back row, Ashton Killen, Neshoba Central; Landon Hutchison, Leake Central; Cole Hodgins, Neshoba Central; Hunter Brown, Leake Academy; Nathan Burns, Leake Central; Thomas Nazary, Leake Academy; Adam Porter, Newton County; Taylor Nazary, Leake Academy; and Joshua Parkman, Lake.

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WEEK OF Sept. 6, 2015

Sharp kicks off ECCC arts series

Special to The Star | Posted: Sunday, September 13, 2015 4:00 am

DECATUR – East Central Community College kicks off the second season of its Cultural Arts Series Sept. 30, when Dr. Justin Sharp presents a piano recital at 1 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center on campus.

Sharp joined the ECCC faculty in August and serves as music/keyboard instructor. He previously served as an adjunct instructor at ECCC, a consultant in the development of Early Childhood Music Curriculum and as a private piano instructor.

His experience also includes serving as a teaching assistant and assistant instructor at the University of Texas at Austin and as an instructor at the Armstrong Community Music School located in Austin.

Sharp received his associate degree from East Central Community College and his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College. He earned a master's degree in composition and a doctor of musical arts in composition from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Justin Sharp

Dr. Justin Sharp

The Cultural Arts Series began as a way to bring performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community, according to Vicki Blaylock, ECCC Fine Arts Department chair.

Additional series performances include:

• Oct. 28 – ECCC art instructor Jeff Hodges to present a gallery talk and art exhibit at 1 p.m. in Vickers Fine Arts Center; a reception will follow. Free admission.

• Nov. 12-13 – Mystery Masquerade Dinner Theater to be held at 7 p.m. in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Tickets are $15 and will go on sale Oct. 12.

• Nov. 19 – ECCC Concert Choir and Newton County High School Choir will perform Handel's "Messiah" at 7 p.m. in Huff Auditorium. Free admission.

• Dec. 1 – Fine Arts Christmas Spectacular scheduled at 7 p.m. in Huff Auditorium. Tickets are $15.

For more information, contact Blaylock at 601-635-6225 or e-mail vblaylock@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

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NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____
SPIRIT OF MORTON _____
MERIDIAN STAR meridianstar.com
NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____
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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____
CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF _____

ECCC collegians selected for 2015-16

By ECCC Media Relations

Members of the East Central Community College Collegians were recently selected for 2015-16, announced director Chas Evans.

The popular rock 'n' roll group includes vocalists Garrett McDill of Sebastapol, Peyton Jones of Nanih Waiya, Dustin Morgan and Aleia Sharp, both of Union, Tallie Johnston, a homeschooler from Lake, and Anna Wells of Winston Academy; bass guitarist Houston Martin, lead guitarists Stephen Stewart, alto saxophonist Brad Taylor and tenor saxophonist Graham Mumphree, all of Newton County; keyboardist Anna Claire Webb of Noxapater, drummer Chris Kelley of Newton, auxiliary percussionist Caleb Franklin and trombonist Evan Derrick, both of Morton; and trumpeter Anastasia Crout of Lake.

Technicians are Michael Buntyn, Ryan Packer, Troy Gregory and Hannah Mitchell, all of Newton County; Christian Bounds and Lucas Bates, both of Lake; Danny Smith of Carthage, Christian Richardson of Union and Sam Mitchell of Leake Academy. The Collegians perform on campus each semester and are available for a limited amount of school and civic performances throughout the year.

For more information, contact Chas Evans, 601-635-6227, or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 227. His email address is cevans@eccc.edu.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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WEEK OF _____

ECCC's Phi Beta Lambda Chapter Honored Nationally

East Central Community College's Theta Chi chapter of Phi Beta Lambda was recognized for the first time in chapter history as a Top 10 Chapter in the nation during the organization's National Conference held this summer in Chicago, Ill. Theta Chi also received a first place award for membership in the southern region, second place in the nation for fundraising for the March of Dimes and third in the nation for membership. ECCC was also recognized as a Gold Seal Chapter, 7-up Chapter and Super Sweeps Chapter. ECCC had 14 students attend the annual event. Pictured are (front row, from left) Leah Ferguson and Kimberly Watkins, both of Philadelphia, 14th in small business plan; Layne Lepard of Philadelphia, 10th in integrated marketing campaign; Madelon Taylor of Louisville, 7th in community service; CrisAnn Bryan and Katie Hillman, both of Philadelphia, 7th in social media challenge; and Virginia Easley of Philadelphia, 10th in integrated marketing campaign and Who's Who in PBL; (second row, from left) Zach Allen of Louisville, 7th in community service; Ben Pace of Philadelphia, 10th in integrated marketing campaign; Caleb Brown of Philadelphia, 7th in social media challenge and recognized for his service as Mississippi PBL president; and Michael Elizondo of Forest, Austin Savell of Philadelphia and Bryan Burton of Louisville, 14th small business plan; and (back row, from left) instructors Laura Sullivan, Thomas Fortenberry and Christy Ferguson; and Mark Hale of Little Rock, 8th in cybersecurity. (Submitted Photo)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Aug 31 2015

GED grads at ECCC

Students who received their high school equivalency diplomas at the annual GED Graduation Ceremony held recently at East Central Community College in Decatur are, first row, from left, Amber Marie Page, Decatur; Elizabeth Crotwell, Morton; Obreanna Riley, Philadelphia; Randi Rogers, Sebastopol; Briah Billy, Choctaw; and Brandon Harris, Raleigh; second row, Kendal McMillon, Carthage; Carla Land, Morton; Breanna McBeath and Julie Plummer, both of Union; Joseph Phillips, Carthage; Roshanek Gordon, Forest; and Presley Perkins, Carthage; and back row, Logan Hill, Grenada; Shylhil Ray-Antwine, Philadelphia; Devon Mingo, Conehatta; Ryan Skinner, Philadelphia; William Simmons, Union; Tyler Townsend, Little Rock; and Daviplazjsha Horne, Morton.

APPEARED IN:

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

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WEEK OF Aug 2 25

EC practical nursing grads

Careers in the healthcare field await these graduates of East Central Community College's Practical Nursing Program, who received special recognition at the annual pinning ceremony held recently on the Decatur campus. Students who completed the 12-month program and their respective hometowns include, first row, from left, Gloriana Latham, Morton; Asia Ruffin, Quitman; Brianna Peeples, Philadelphia; Brittany Kelly, Meridian; Summer Jenkins, Little Rock; Tamantha Harris, Forest; Sarah Alexander, Philadelphia; Megan McElhenney, Decatur; and Jennifer Whatley, Philadelphia; and back row, Lauren Whitehead, Louisville; Nikki Tucker and Chance Lovern, both of Philadelphia; Kalena Smith, Decatur; Melissa Miles, Philadelphia; Monica Gray, Forest; Teoneka Wallace, Union; and Hailey Coate, Philadelphia. For more information contact Denita Thomas, dean of healthcare education, at 601-635-6294. (EC Photo)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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MERIDIAN STAR X

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Aug 22 2016

ECCC's Phi Beta Lambda chapter honored

East Central Community College's Theta Chi chapter of Phi Beta Lambda was recognized for the first time in chapter history as a Top 10 Chapter in the nation during the organization's National Conference held this summer in Chicago, Ill. Theta Chi also received a first place award for membership in the southern region, second place in the nation for fundraising for the March of Dimes and third in the nation for membership. ECCC was also recognized as a Gold Seal Chapter, 7-up Chapter and Super Sweeps Chapter. ECCC had 14 students attend the annual event. Pictured are (front row, from left) Leah Ferguson and Kimberly Watkins, both of Philadelphia, 14th in small business plan; Layne Lepard of Philadelphia, 10th in integrated marketing campaign; Madelon Taylor of Louisville, 7th in community service; CrisAnn Bryan and Katie Hillman, both of Philadelphia, 7th in social media challenge; and Virginia Easley of Philadelphia, 10th in integrated marketing campaign and Who's Who in PBL; (second row, from left) Zach Allen of Louisville, 7th in community service; Ben Pace of Philadelphia, 10th in integrated marketing campaign; Caleb Brown of Philadelphia, 7th in social media challenge and recognized for his service as Mississippi PBL president; and Michael Elizondo of Forest, Austin Savell of Philadelphia and Bryan Burton of Louisville, 14th small business plan; and (back row, from left) instructors Laura Sullivan, Thomas Fortenberry and Christy Ferguson; and Mark Hale of Little Rock, 8th in cybersecurity.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT X

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF August 25, 2015

Selected as drum majors for the 2015-16 Wall O' Sound Marching Band at East Central Community College in Decatur are (from left) Louise Berryhill of Newton County, Danielle Horne of Union, Landon Bounds of Neshoba Central and Katie Ware of Lake. For more information, call (601) 635-6123.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF August 23, 2015

ECCC Wall O' Sound Presents 'One Hit Wonders'

Fans of the East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Marching Band can look forward to "fun entertainment" during the 2015 marching season, according to Ed Girling, director of bands.

"Our halftime show is titled 'One Hit Wonders' and features tunes that were the only hit song by their respective performing group. Although the performers never gained a lot of notoriety, the songs were mega hits that stick in the brain," said Girling who previously directed bands at Forest High School and Scott Central Attendance Center.

When the entire show is on the field, those in attendance will hear clips from "Ice Ice Baby" by Vanilla Ice, "Vehicle" made popular by Ides of March, "8675309, Jenny" by Tommy Tutone, A-Ha's "Take On Me," "Mambo #5" by Lou Bega, "Macarena" made popular by Los Del Rios, Jeff Buckley's "Hallelujah," "Play that Funky Music" by Wild Cherry and "Don't Worry Be Happy" by Bobby McFerrin.

"All of these tunes have been used in movies, TV, and commercials. They provide instant recognition for music fans of all ages," Girling said.

The show is designed so that the home audience will see something new every time the Wall O' Sound performs until the homecoming game on Saturday, October 17, when the entire show will be on the field.

The 2015 football season begins Thursday as East Central will host Mississippi Delta Community College with game time at 6:30 p.m.

The 2015 edition of the Wall O'Sound includes 170 members and performs for each home football game. The band will also perform at Pearl River Community College during ECCC's road game scheduled Thursday, Oct. 22. The Wall O' Sound Pep Band will perform during additional road games.

Members and their respective high schools from Scott County include:

Jennifer Argueta-Martinez, Emily Dykeman, Alan Graham, Lindsay Hedge, Yuritza Rosas, Malcolm McBride and Chris Windham Pulaski, all of Forest.

Katie Fortenberry, a home-school graduate from Forest.

Taylor Bone, Acacia Brown, Jessica Reed, Tyler Sullivan, Katie Boone, Amanda Brown, Baylee Buckley, Adrianna Crout, Alexandria Crout, Anastasia Crout, Zachary Emmons, Anthony Emmons, Mikenia Ickom, Surpriyce McDaniel and Kaitlyn Ware, all of Lake.

Tallie Johnston, a home-school graduate from Lake.

Tehearia Campbell, Evan Derrick, Caleb Franklin, Aerian Keeton and Kayla Sudduth, all of Morton.

Adam Anderson, Jeremy Collins, Brianna Easterling and Douglas Kennedy, all of Scott Central.

Makenzie Byrd, Garrett McDill, Chelsea Jackson and Alejandra Salgado, all of Sebastopol.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL X

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL X

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF Aug 25 2015

Gordy named to academic team

East Central Community College sophomores Kristen Gordy of Forest was recently named to the 2015 All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team.

She was honored along with other outstanding community and junior college students from across the state during an event in Jackson. Activities began with a meet and greet with state legislators, followed by a press conference on the south capitol steps, a tour of the state capitol, and an awards luncheon at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant was the keynote speaker at the awards luncheon. State Senator Terry Burton of Newton served as master of ceremonies.

The All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team recognizes scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in the state's two-year colleges.

Gordy

Gordy, a liberal arts major, was one of 15 students named to the First Team. She received a $1,000 scholarship.

Gordy is a Dean's List and President's List scholar at East Central. She serves as vice president of fellowship for the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, the international honor society for community college students; and is a member of Warrior Corps student recruiting group, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Encore, East Central's musical theatre organization. She also was selected for "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

A graduate of East Rankin Academy, she is the daughter of Wayne and Rachel Gordy of Forest.

Gordy received a medallion, certificate, and printed resolutions from the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives.

Students named to the All-Mississippi Academic Team compete for placement on the national All-USA Community College Academic Team, sponsored by Follett Higher Education Group, with additional support from the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa.

Mississippi ranks sixth in the nation for students named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team.

APPEARED IN:

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SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X

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CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF AUG 10 2015

ECCC Yearbook takes third place in state competition

Submitted

East Central Community College in Decatur was one of 10 Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges participating in the 2014-15 Mississippi Community and Junior College Press Association Yearbook Competition. ECCC's yearbook, Wo-He-Lo, finished third overall.

The yearbooks are judged on seven categories including cover, theme, structure, typography, design, copy and photography. The Wo-He-Lo took the top award in the photography category; second place in both the copy and design categories; third place in typography; tied for third place in the cover design and structure categories; and fifth place in the theme category.

The yearbook was led by editor Emily Cook of Carthage and is advised by Publications Coordinator Gennie Taylor of Forest.

The 2014-15 Wo-He-Lo staff members included Cook, Lillie Shuler and Anna Girling, both of Carthage; Kimberly Harrison, Kaitlin Smith, Samantha Haralson, Madison Pettigrew, Katlyn Patrick and Dominick Fields, all of Forest; Wil Johnson of Morton, DeeJay Rolison of Conehatta, Shannon McNeill of Sebastopol, Madison Herrington of Union, Brooke Smith and Madison Barnett, both of Noxapater; Hannah May of Little Rock, Madelon Taylor of Louisville; Allison Johnson and Kimberly Watkins, both of Philadelphia; Ashley Bozeman and Kaylee Yates, both of Decatur; Matthew Ferguson and Anthony Emmons, both of Lake; and Rachel Laird of Meridian.

Serving on the Wo-He-Lo editorial board were Cook, editor; McNeill, design editor; and assistant editors Smith, Shuler, May, Haralson and Taylor.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

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NESHOBA DEMOCRAT X

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WEEK OF Aug 16, 2015

EC grad receives Rural Physicians Scholarship

ECCC Media relations

Caleb Stallings, a 2015 graduate of East Central Community College in Decatur, was recently selected to participate in the undergraduate portion of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program. He is currently a junior at Mississippi State University.

Stallings

"East Central is so proud of Caleb on his selection for participation in this prestigious scholarship program," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "It is a direct reflection on his hard work and dedication to scholarship and academic achievement. It is also a reflection of the quality instruction provided by faculty at East Central."

Stallings is a graduate of Enterprise High School and the son of Cindy Stallings of Vossburg and the late Walter Stallings.

Created in 2007, the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program identifies up to 20 college sophomores "who demonstrate the necessary commitment and academic achievement to become competent, well-trained rural primary care physicians in our state," according to Jake Donald, MRPSP associate director.

The program offers two years of undergraduate academic enrichment including MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) preparation and a clinical experience in a rural setting. Upon completion of all medical school admissions requirements, students will be admitted to the University of Mississippi School of Medicine through Direct Entry.

During medical school at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine or College of Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey Uniersity, each MRPSP scholar is under consideration for $30,000 per year based on available funding. Consistent legislative support of MRPSP translates to 60 medical students receiving a total of $1,800,000 to support their education this fall. Additional benefits include personalized mentoring from practicing rural physicians and academic support.

Upon completion of the training, MRPSP Scholars must enter a residency program in one of five primary care specialties: family medicine, general internal medicine, medicine-pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology or pediatrics.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Aug. 14, 2015

ECCC student-athletes, teams receive state, national recognition for academic performance

Several East Central Community College student-athletes and two sports teams have received state and national recognition for academic performance during the 2014-15 academic year on the Decatur campus.

In all, 20 student-athletes were recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association or the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, or by both organizations.

On the national level, the NJCAA presents awards in three categories: NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence (for those achieving a perfect 4.0 grade-point average); NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.79 to 3.99 GPA); and NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.6 to 3.79 GPA).

Receiving the NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement was Joseph Patrick (men's tennis) of Morton.

Receiving the NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement was Kristine Jenkins (women's tennis) of Forest.

Academic honors presented to student-athletes on the state level include MACJC Distinguished Academic All-State (those earning a 3.8 to 4.0 GPA) and MACJC Academic All-State (3.25 to 3.79 GPA).

East Central Community College student-athletes receiving MACJC Distinguished Academic All-State was Joseph Patrick.

Receiving MACJC Academic All-State were Eliud Alvarez (men's soccer) of Forest,

In addition to the individual awards, two of the college's sports teams were both named the best in the state and the nation for academic performance for 2014-15.

The East Central women's soccer program was named both the NJCAA and MACJC Women's Soccer Academic Team of the Year for compiling an overall 3.53 grade-point average. It was the fourth such honor since the program began in 2005.

The ECCC women's softball program also was named both the NJCAA and MACJC Women's Softball Academic Team of the Year for compiling an overall 3.63 grade-point average this past academic year.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Aug 9 2015

FISHER NAMED BEAU

East Central Community College students were selected beauties and beaus during the past spring. Dustin Fisher of Lake was recognized among the beau participants.

ECCC TOP TEN

Ten students were selected for the Top 10 during the annual Beauty Pageant held on the Decatur campus at East Central Community College. Pictured are, from left: Madison Pettigrew of Forest, Shelly Dowell of Lena, Skylar Davidson of Morton, Kaitlin Sellers of Ellisville, Kaley Bufkin of Decatur, Kelly Covert of Collinsville, Mikayla May of Chunky, Macken'z Smith of Philadelphia, Mackenzie Gannon of Decatur and Hannah Mitchell of Meridian.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF _____

Students, teams receive state, national recognition

Several East Central Community College student-athletes and two sports teams have received state and national recognition for academic performance during the 2014-15 academic year on the Decatur campus.

In all, 20 student-athletes were recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association or the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, or by both organizations.

On the national level, the NJCAA presents awards in three categories: NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence (for those achieving a perfect 4.0 grade-point average); NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.79 to 3.99 GPA); and NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.6 to 3.79 GPA).

Among those receiving the NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement were Joseph Patrick (men's tennis) of Morton.

Among those receiving the NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement were Kristine Jenkins (women's tennis) of Forest.

Among those receiving MACJC Academic All-State were Eliud Alvarez (men's soccer) of Forest.

In addition to the individual awards, the soccer and softball programs were named the best in the state and the nation for academic performance for 2014-15.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF Aug. 2, 2015

ECCC Wall O' Sound to hold performance

The East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Marching Band will hold an exhibition performance at 4 p.m. Friday, August 7, on the Decatur campus, announced Ed Girling, interim director of bands.

"We appreciate everyone's support of the Wall O' Sound and we invite them to bring their lawn chairs and get a sneak preview of our upcoming marching show," Girling said.

Activities will last approximately one hour and will be held on the band practice field located behind Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the north end of the Decatur campus.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF JUN 19, 2015

New ECCC scholarship to honor Muse

Muse is a native of Sebastopol

DECATUR — Much-needed financial support will be available for East Central Community College students thanks to alumni and friends who have established various annual and endowed scholarships.

Among the most recent scholarships established are the Dr. Vernon Clyde and Vashti Muse Endowed Scholarship, Dr. Earl Laird Sr. Scholarship, Derek Pouncey Memorial Scholarship and Friendship Breakfast Club Scholarship, which were approved by the College's Board of Trustees at its February meeting.

Dr. Vernon Clyde Muse has devoted his life to education and has served as president of the Hinds Community College District since 1978.

He began his career at Canton High School as a science teacher and coach. He later served as a high school principal and then became assistant superintendent of education for the Starkville Municipal Separate School District. He also held positions as superintendent of education for both the Meridian Municipal Separate School District and Hinds County Public Schools.

He is a graduate of Sebastopol High School, East Central Junior College, Delta State University and received master's and doctoral degrees from Mississippi State University.

Mrs. Muse also devoted her entire life to education, having served in the Starkville, Hinds County and Lauderdale County school systems prior to joining the Hinds Community College staff in 1980.

She taught full-time at Hinds from 1980 until her retirement in 2002. She devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to the advancement of teaching developmental education and in 2006, the Mississippi Association for Developmental Education named its most prestigious award in her honor.

She received various local and national awards and in April 2010, the Mississippi Legislature presented a joint resolution recognizing Mrs. Muse for her tremendous impact on education in the state of Mississippi.

The Muse Scholarship will be awarded each year to a student who meets the following criteria:

- Must be a full-time East Central Community College student pursuing an Educational Degree program of study (academic or career/technical field) at any location of the ECCC district;
- Must maintain full-time status (enrolled in 15 or more hours per semester and successfully completing a minimum of 12 hours per semester);
- Have a 2.5 or better high school and/or East Central Community College grade point average; and
- Be free of any disciplinary problems.

No part of the endowment corpus will be used for the scholarship award. Scholarship recipients will be selected by the ECCC Scholarship Committee.

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WEEK OF JUN 19, 2015

Nursing scholarship is established at ECCC

The Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (M-OADN) and ASNEC Scholarship was recently established at East Central Community College in Decatur. The new scholarship was established in January 2015 to honor the profession of nursing, specifically the associate degree nurse.

M-OADN is a state organization primarily interested in working to retain the registered nurse title and the scope of practice for the associate degree nurse. ASNEC is the Association of Student Nurses at East Central Community College. M-OADN and ASNEC work together to promote agency participation and professionalism of the associate degree nurse at East Central Community College.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to the president of ASNEC.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF JULY 19, 2015

ECCC Day at Neshoba County Fair set for July 27

East Central Community College alumni, students, and prospective students and their families are invited to attend the "EC Day at the Fair" festivities at the Neshoba County Fair in Philadelphia on Monday, July 27, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Founders Square Pavilion.

The annual event will feature performances by the college's Collegians rock and roll band, Warrior Cheerleaders and the Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

East Central Community College admissions and alumni representatives also will be available at a display booth in Exhibit Hall to provide information on the college, including various academic, health-related, technical, career and other opportunities available in Decatur and off-campus locations.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF JUNE 14, 2015

East Central Community College students received their Associate Degree Nursing pins during a special ceremony held on the Decatur campus. Graduat and their respective hometowns include, seated from left: Tiara Bailey, Meridian; Melissa Barham, Polkville; Sherrie Perry, Decatur; Jessica Steen, Kosciusk Robyn Johnson, Sebastopol; Kenya Hickman, Louisville; Casie McClendon, Forest; Shelby Harthcock, Newton; and Hayden Stokes, Louisville; Second ro Tiffany Anderson, Newton; Kayla Jenkins, Louisville; Traci Lewis, Decatur; Hailey Smith Jones and Bethany Jones, both of Philadelphia; Aimee Wood Louisville; Chassidy Gates, Decatur; Mary Catherine Hunt, Louisville; Taylor Deese, Noxapater; Reagan Anderson, Philadelphia; Tony Sistrunk, Sebastopo John Mark Carter, Louisville; and Amber Pierce, Carthage; Third row: Nikki Smith, Union; Sharley Hardin, Rebecca Wicker and Danielle Pettigrew, all of Fo est; Bailey Talbot, Louisville; Aleta Shade, Carthage; Kimberly Noblin, Forest; Amy Whittle and Chesney Spence, both of Philadelphia; Kayla McCleary a Victoria Sanders, both of Carthage; Angela Reeves, Decatur; and Alex Meador, Chunky; Fourth row: Marty Boatner, Louisville; Kalecia Bean, Bruce; Em Price, Sebastopol; Katie Pigg, Carthage; Eula Lewis, Brandon; Darryl Cooks, Walnut Grove; Trilandra Ware, Forest; Kurt Simoneau, Louin; Patience Hayn Noxapater; Jordan Clearman, Philadelphia; Samantha Ellingburg, Little Rock; Shakeela Flournoy Taylorsville; and Shane Wilbourne, Forest.

APPEARED IN:

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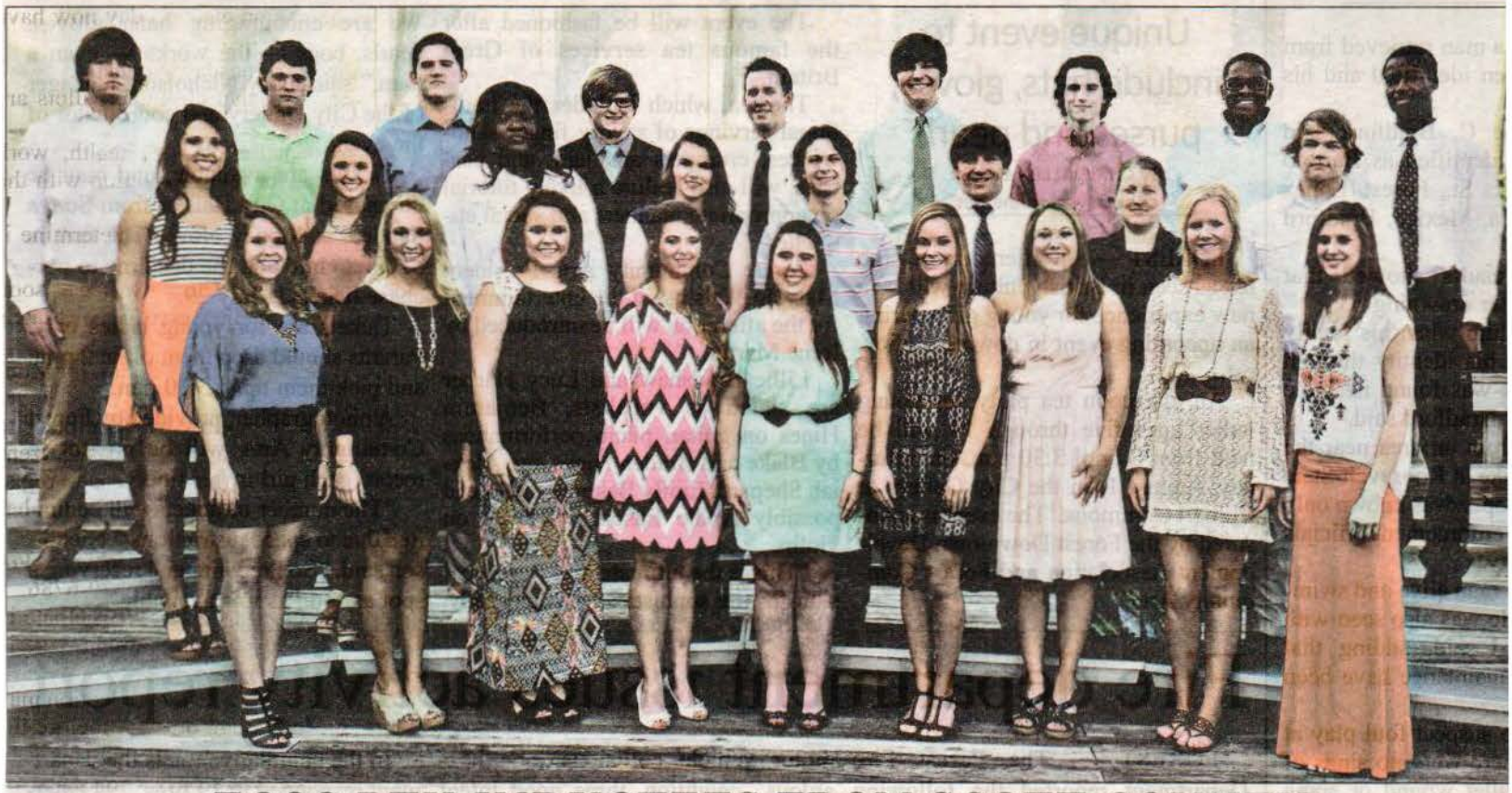
WEEK OF July 19, 2015



ECCC PTK INDUCTEES FROM SCOTT COUNTY

East Central Community College students from Scott County were recently inducted into Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges. Inductees and their hometowns include, from left front: Candice Crimm and Kaitlin Smith, both of Forest; Tallie Johnston, Lake; Lindsay Hedge, Kimberly Harrison and Brittney Rawson, all of Forest; Anna Westberry, Morton; Bethany Barnes, Pulaski; and Megan McNeal, Morton. Second row: Samantha Haralson and Madison Pettigrew, both of Forest; Tracy Gray, Lake; Tyler Richardson, Lena; Taylor Lott, Forest; Tanner Davis and Sarah Tatum, both of Sebastopol; and Jayson Dempsey, Morton. Back row: Dean Martin, Forest; Matthew Mitchell, Lake; Garrett McDill, Sebastopol; Anthony Emmons, Lake; John Harvey, Forest; Evan Derrick and Blake Barnes, both of Morton; and Dominick Fields and Christopher Brown, both of Forest. More than 100 students joined the prestigious organization, whose mission is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming. To qualify, students must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework that may be applied to an associate degree and must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Career-Technical counselor Amanda Walton and instructors Chris Ryals and Jenna Wright serve as advisers.

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WEEK OF _____

Athletes honored at banquet

The Newton County High School soccer boosters sponsored a banquet to celebrate the accomplishments for the season. The recognized include, from left, (front) Tyler Spears, Cougar award; Parker McWhirter, most valuable player; and Samm Thompson, defensive player award, (back) John Ross Griffin, offensive player award; Will Stewart, golden boot award; and John Mark Vincent, midfielder of the year.

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WEEK OF _____ 2015

Brock

From 1A

fun during the week."

The process has been rigorous for Brock, including meeting with her interview coach and voice coaches once each week and going through a fitness training regimen. Her dad, Scott, who is a football coach at East Central Community College has helped her lift weights each day to prepare for the fitness aspect of the scholarship program.

"It's been a lot of preparation, a lot of critiquing by my mom to get ready for next week," Brock said.

One person who has an insight into what Brock is going through is Decatur's program winner, Pam Keith. The program may have changed from Junior Miss to Distinguished Young Woman, but Keith still knows the preparation that Brock is going through.

"It was a rewarding experience for me," Keith said. "I told her that it will be the most exciting week she will have and expect to make many new friendships. It's going to be a difficult crunch, but don't let it be overwhelming. And I told her to have fun."

Keith didn't meet Brock, who moved with her family from Florida two years ago, until she competed in the Distinguished Young Woman program. Keith said Brock will represent Newton County well.

Janine Vincent/Special to the Appeal

Decatur's first Junior Miss, Pam Keith, with 2016 Newton County's Distinguished Young Woman Makaeya Brock.

Janine Vincent/Special to the Appeal

"She has great talent and a strong person," Keith said. "She's very intelligent and very much a people person. I think she will do well in the competition."

Brock said the program has been rewarding for her.

"It's the entire experience from getting to know everyone to stepping outside of my comfort zone," Brock said. "I've always competed in pageants, but this is a scholarship program. Getting to experience new things and having to get on stage and answer a question really brings out whether you're brave or not, but it really brings me out."

Brock said this is a unique experience compared to pageants.

"Pageants are all about your looks," Brock said. "This program is about being your best self. It doesn't matter how you look. It matters how you present yourself and who you are."

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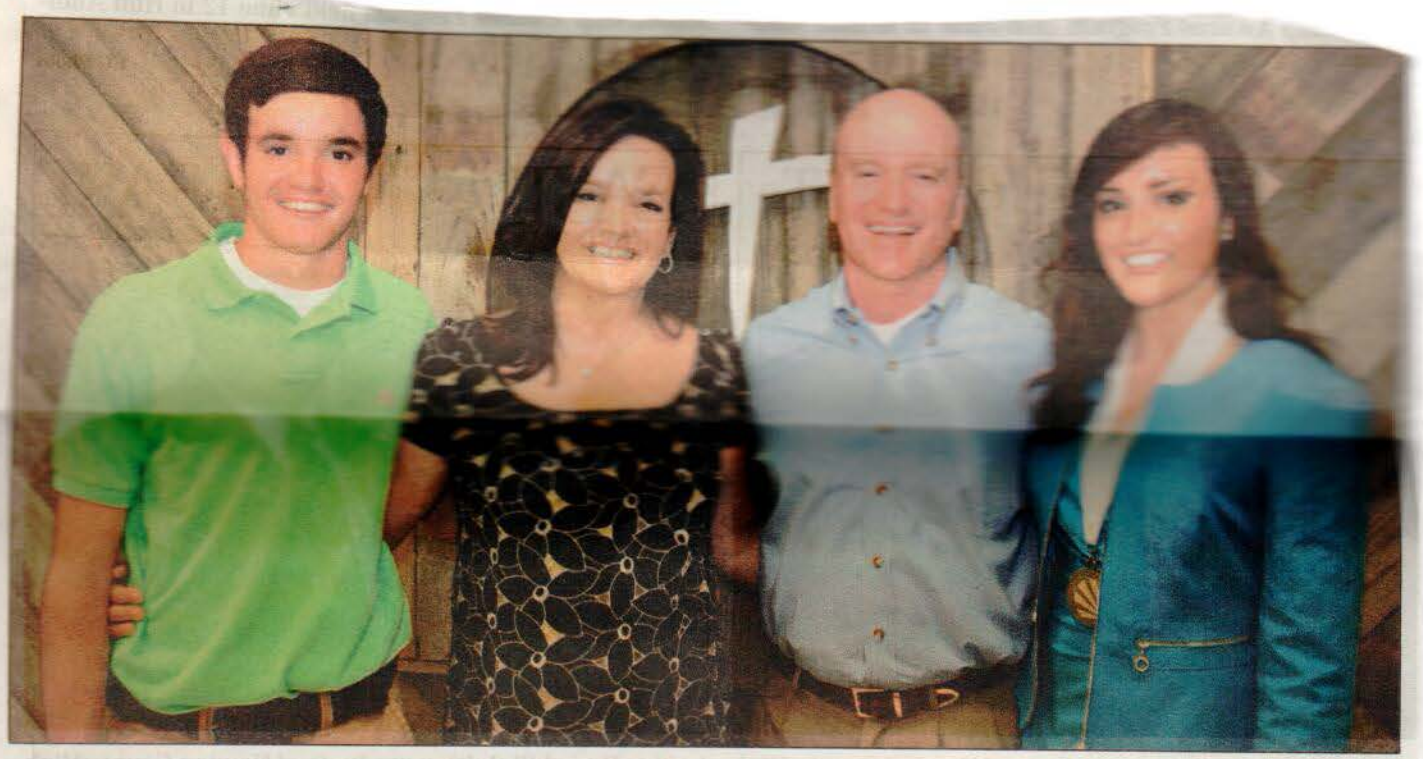
WEEK OF July 12, 2013



From left Brooks Brock, Daniele Brock, Scott Brock, and Makaeya Brock. Anyone wishing to send correspondence during the week of July 19-25 may connect at: Makaeya Brock, Newton County's DYW, P.O. Box 582, Meridian, MS 39302.

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF July 12, 2015

Decatur's Makaeya Brock prepares for competition next week

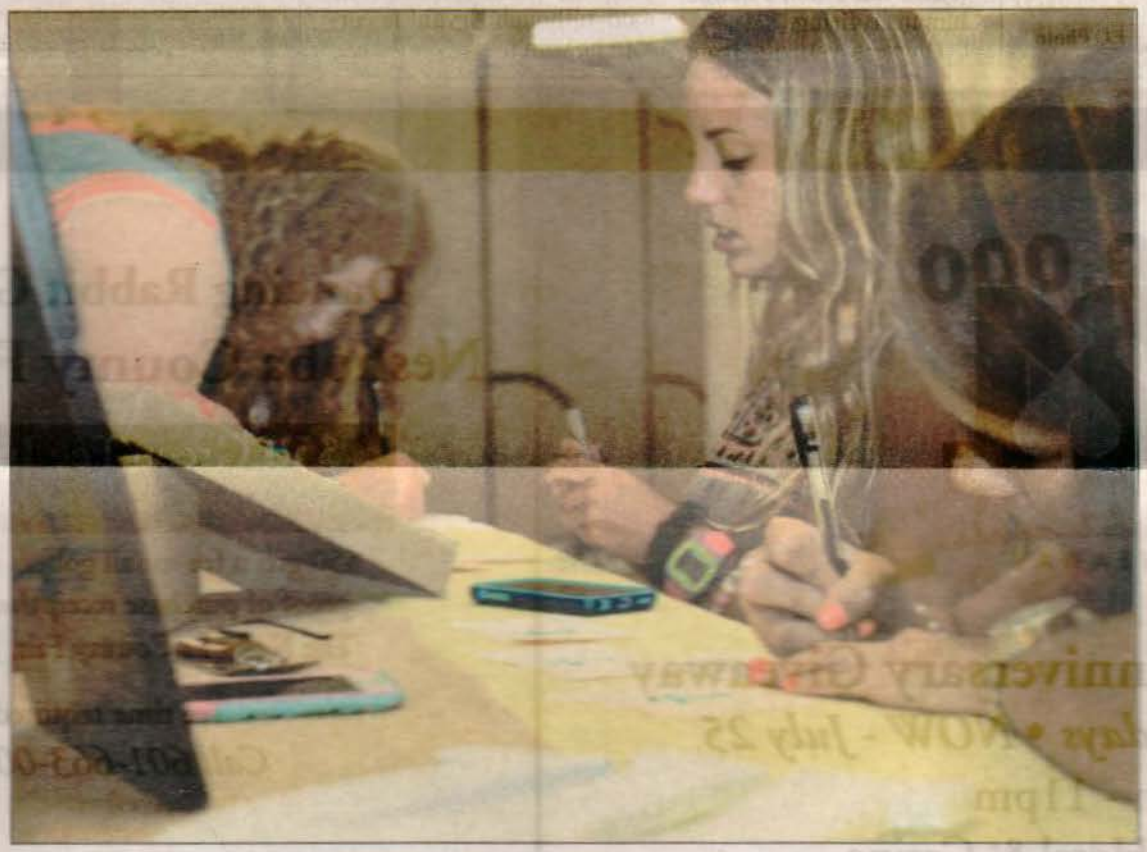
By Brent Maze
bmaze@newtoncountyappeal.com

Makaeya Brock didn't get much time to celebrate her win as Newton County's Distinguished Young Woman.

Almost as soon as she received the honor, the preparation began. Four months later, Brock is ready to compete in Mississippi's Distinguished Young Woman program in Meridian next week.

"It's kind of felt like my life was taken over as soon as I was selected as Newton County's Distinguished Young Woman," Brock said. "They rushed me down stairs to talk to the judges, who told me, 'This is what you have to do for state. This is what you need to do to prepare.' As soon as I got done with that, I knew what I needed to do every single day to get prepared for this. I'm just glad that I'm to the point now where I'm about to go off (to the competition) and have

See Brock, 4A



Mackenzie Phillips, Chaney Mills and Destiny Barrett contribute to Makaeya Brock's notes of encouragement box.

Janine Vincent/Special to the Appeal

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF _____

DYW heads to state

Newton County High School Junior Chloe Nance gives send-off encouragements to Ma[illegible]eya Brock, Newton County's DYW.

Janine Vincent/Special to the Appeal

APPEARED IN:

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WEEK OF JULY 12, 2015

BATES ATTENDS EAST CENTRAL REGISTRATION FOR FALL SEMESTER

Lucas Bates (right) of Lake was among area students who attended registration activities held at East Central Community College in Decatur. The Lake High School graduate is shown planning his fall class schedule with assistance from chemistry instructor Amy Denson. Additional registration sessions are scheduled Friday, August 14. Fall classes begin Monday, August 17. For more information, contact Student Services at (601) 635-6205.

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WEEK OF July 5, 2015

Students honored at SkillsUSA Championships

Students from technical education programs in Forest-area high schools and colleges recently won the nation's highest awards at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Industry leaders representing more than 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions recognized the students for demonstrating excellence in 100 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions, such as robotics, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. All competitions are designed, run and judged by industry using industry standards.

Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade or scholarships to further their careers and education. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high-school and college-level students who are members of the 360,000-member SkillsUSA organization.

In addition, Skill Point Certificates were awarded in 86 occupational and leadership areas to students who achieved a high score defined by industry. The SkillsUSA Championships have been a premier event since 1967. The Skill Point Certificates were introduced in 2009 as a component of the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System.

Local students included:

- Jay Riser, from Forest and a student at East Central Community College (Decatur), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Cabinetmaking.
- William Milner, from Lena and a student at East Central Community College (Decatur), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Electrical Construction Wiring.

"More than 6,000 students from every state in the nation came to compete in the SkillsUSA Championships," said SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence. "This is the SkillsUSA partnership at its best. Students, instructors and industry representatives are working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and every student excels. These students prove that career and technical education expands opportunities."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, students who take three or more career and technical education (CTE) programs in high school are more likely to attend college and stay there to graduate. In fact, 79 percent of CTE concentrators enrolled in postsecondary education within two years of high school graduation. And, students in CTE programs have a higher-than-average high school graduation rate. Research has shown the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 90 percent, compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 80 percent.

The SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System was developed as an extension of the SkillsUSA mission and supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The system recognizes students for excellence in occupational training. It also assesses and documents the entry-level technical proficiency and cumulative experiences of candidates. For more information about the SkillsUSA Work Force Ready System, visit www.workforcereadysystem.com.

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WEEK OF July 5, 2015

ECCC students win awards at National SkillsUSA Competition

Special to The Star | Posted: Sunday, July 5, 2015 4:00 am

Five East Central Community College workforce education students received awards at the 51st annual SkillsUSA National Skill and Leadership Conference held June 24-25 in Louisville, Ky.

Blake Faulkner of Carthage finished fifth in the nation in Carpentry, Jay Riser of Forest finished seventh in Cabinet Making, Asif Zaffar of Philadelphia finished 11th in Sheet Metal, Chad Simoneau of Louin finished 12th in Plumbing, and William Milner of Lena finished 16th in Electrical Construction Wiring.

More than 6,000 students participated in 100 hands-on skill and leadership competitions during the two-day event.

"I'm extremely proud of these students for their performances at the national level," said Wayne Eason, director of workforce development at ECCC. "They demonstrated that their ECCC education had prepared them to compete head to head against the finest students from across the nation."

The East Central students advanced to the national competition after finishing in first place in their respective categories at the Mississippi SkillsUSA State Competition held in Jackson this spring.

ECCC

East Central Community College students competing in the 2015 Skills USA Championships in Louisville, Ky, were (from left) William Milner of Lena, Chad Simoneau of Louin, Blake Faulkner of Carthage, Asif Zaffar of Philadelphia, and Jay Riser of Forest.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The SkillsUSA Championships is the showcase for the best career and technical students in the nation.

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CLIP FILE SUMMARY

(Number of Articles/Photos Appearing in Each Newspaper)

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Neshoba Democrat ✓

Newton Appeal _____

Scott County Times _____

Spirit of Morton ✓

Winston County Journal ✓

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academic honors

NJCAA adopts several rules changes for women's basketball

By Austin Bishop
Winston County Journal

Junior college basketball games will not look quite the same this coming season, especially on the women's side.

The NJCAA Executive Committee recently approved for the NJCAA to adopt several new rules changes made by the NCAA, including playing four quarters instead of two halves, eliminating one-plus-one free throw situations, allowing a team to advance a ball into the forecourt late in the game in certain situations, and allowing more contact between defenders and post players.

While a press release announcing the changes noted that the move to four quarters and a change in when a team would start shooting bonus free throws would "enhance the flow of the game," a trio of local coaches aren't so sure.

"To me I think it will just make the game longer," said East Central Community College head women's coach Crandall Porter said. "Now when a team gets into the bonus you shoot two free throws every time there is a foul."

Team would begin shooting the bonus on the fifth team foul of each quarter, with the team fouls being reset to zero at the end of each quarter other than the fourth.

ECCC teams, athletes take NJCAA, MACJC

From school reports

Several East Central Community College student-athletes and two sports teams have received state and national recognition for academic performance during the 2014-15 academic year on the Decatur campus.

In all, 20 student-athletes were recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association or the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, or by both organizations.

On the national level, the NJCAA presents awards in three categories: NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence (for those achieving a perfect 4.0 grade-point average); NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.79 to 3.99 GPA); and NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.6 to 3.79 GPA).

Receiving the NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence was Anna Katherine Nowell (softball) of Philadelphia.

Receiving the NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement were Karoline Holsonback (softball) of Kennedy, Ala., Joseph Patrick (men's tennis) of Morton, and Alana Walker (women's soccer) of Pascagoula.

Receiving the NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement were Ashlan Culberson (women's soccer) of Brandon, Kristine Jenkins (women's tennis) of Forest, Nicklas McNair (men's soccer) of Philadelphia, William Myers (baseball) of Philadelphia, Hannah Peoples (women's tennis) of Carthage, Dalton Smith (men's soccer) of Florence, Mallory Turner (softball) of Collinsville, and Chance Whitten (baseball) of Batesville.

Academic honors presented to student-athletes on the state level include MACJC Distinguished Academic All-State (those earning a 3.8 to 4.0 GPA) and MACJC Academic All-State (3.25 to 3.79 GPA).

East Central Community College student-athletes receiving MACJC Distinguished Academic All-State were Karoline Holsonback, Anna Katherine Nowell, Joseph Patrick, and Alana Walker.

Receiving MACJC Academic All-State were Eliud Alvarez (men's soccer) of Forest, Addie Ambrosier (women's soccer) of Magee, Jerry Byrd (men's soccer) of Biloxi, Tyler Cook (men's soccer) of Saucier, Ashlan Culberson, Kristine Jenkins, Dylan Little (baseball) of Semmes, Ala., Kyle McCullouch (baseball) of Madison, Nicklas McNair, William Myers, Hannah Peoples, Dalton Smith, Mackenz Smith (women's tennis) of Philadelphia, Tashiana Thompson (women's basketball) of Lithonia, Ga., Mallory Turner, and Chance Whitten.

In addition to the individual awards, two of the college's sports teams were both named the best in the state and the nation for academi performance for 2014-15.

The East Central women' soccer program was name both the NJCAA and MACJ Women's Soccer Academi Team of the Year for compil ing an overall 3.53 grade point average. It was th fourth such honor since th program began in 2005. Th ECCC women's softball pro gram also was named botl the NJCAA and MACJ Women's Softball Academi Team of the Year for compil ing an overall 3.63 grade point average this past aca demic year.

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• DECATUR – **Breona Moore** and **Chelsea Smith** were among scholarship recipients during the recent ECCC Scholarship Awards Program at Huff Auditorium.

Moore

Smith

Moore, a graduate of Union High School, is the recipient of the Wallace Strickland Rush Health Systems Endowed Scholarship.

Smith, a graduate of Nanih Waiya High School, is the recipient of the Dan Harrison Rush Health Systems Endowed Scholarship

A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2015 event, 146 students received 129 scholarships estimated at $106,587.

• DECATUR – **Ken Ethridge** of Collinsville recently joined the faculty at East Central Community College and will serve as an computer science instructor.

Ethridge

Ethridge, who will begin his new duties on Aug. 10, previously served as information technology systems manager for East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian.

He also previously held IT positions with Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, N.M and worked with Air Force ROTC at Mississippi State University. He served as a member of the United States Air Force from 1985 to 2008. Ethridge received his bachelor's degree in computer science from Colorado Technical University and completed his master's degree in computer science at Mississippi State University.

• DECATUR – **Ed Girling** of Carthage was recently named interim director of bands at East Central Community College.

Girling has 33 years of experience as a band director and percussion instructor and has served as assistant band director at East Central since 2010.

He previously led high school bands at Forest, Scott Central, Stringer, Neshoba Central, Manchester Academy, Cleveland, North Sunflower Academy and Yazoo City.

Girling

Girling also has experience as a clinic and contest judge and as a band clinician and guest conductor. He is also a music arranger and composer and has served as a percussionist for various music groups.

Girling holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Delta State University in Cleveland.

• COLUMBUS – **Haley Gunter** and **Gabrielle Webster**, both of Meridian, were recently accepted into the Ina E. Gordy Honors College and offered a full-tuition scholarship to attend Mississippi University for Women.

The competitive Centennial scholarship is only awarded to 10 students every year. To be considered for the scholarships, interested individuals participate in either the fall or the spring Award Recognition Day, where they are interviewed by faculty of The W.

The Ina E. Gordy Honors College supports students with a track record of academic excellence and intellectual [illegible] as they seek to take their accomplishments to the next level. Members of the Honors College have the opportunity to study abroad, graduate with honors, participate in lecture series, [illegible] host distinguished speakers [illegible] campus and live in [illegible] honors residential hall.

• OXFORD – The following University of Mississippi students from the Meridian area are among more than 4,000 spring semester and summer semester candidates for degrees:

May – Samantha Le'ann Abernathy, bachelor of arts; Elijah Edward Allen, bachelor of science in computer science; Mary Margaret Arrington, bachelor of science in exercise science; Caroline Dimmitt Compton, bachelor of business administration; Schuyler James Dauphine, bachelor of science; William Craig Dungan, bachelor of arts; John Thurman Everett, master of business administration; Laura Elizabeth Gilmore, bachelor of arts; Mary Paige Griffin, bachelor of arts in education; Thaddeus Kane Hooper, bachelor of business administration; Elizabeth Lauren Kimberl, bachelor of social work; Mary Lawrence Love, master of education; Allison Leigh Lucovich, master of [illegible] science; David Scott May, bach-[illegible] Ortlepp, bachelor of arts; Elizabeth Adrian Page, doctor of pharmacy; Tyler Miles Roberts, bachelor of accountancy; Emily Claire Sollie, bachelor of science; Devin M Taylor, juris doctor Spencer Van Zandt, bachelor of arts; Warren Keeton Holt Welch, bachelor of science in civil engineering

August – Thomas Emmett Hamilton, bachelor of arts; Matthew Whitney Munn, bachelor of arts; Tiffany Tawana Davis, specialist in education; William Daniel Finan, master of business administration; William Douglas Fort, master of health care administration; James Thompson, master of business administration; Cordera Jerome Eason, bachelor of social work; Brandon Ross Bowen, bachelor of business administration; Michael Eugene Crowe, bachelor of business administration; Morgan Lynann Fuller, bachelor of business administration; Sean Boyd Smith, bachelor of business administration; Cody Scott Berrey, bachelor of science in mechanical engineering; Stephanie Pagayao Grayson, bachelor of science in pharmaceutical sciences; Michael

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WEEK OF June 7, 2015

LOCAL STUDENTS WIN MEN'S TENNIS AWARDS

These members of the 2015 East Central Community College men's tennis team received honors at the annual Spring Sports Awards Banquet held recently on the Decatur campus. Award winners and their respective high schools include (from left) Juan Miranda of Morton, Most Valuable Player; Devin Skinner of Neshoba Central, Scholar Athlete Award and Team Captain; Robert Strong of Forest, Warrior Award; and Cole Duty of Winston Academy, Team Captain. ECCC Vice President for Instruction Dr. Teresa Houston and Adjunct Tennis Coach Dianne O'Neill presented awards.

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WEEK OF June 11, 2015

Pacelli named tennis coach

By ECCC sports information

Joseph Anthony "Jay" Pacelli, the head tennis professional at the YMCA-Reservoir and at Castlewoods Country Club in Brandon since 2011, is the new head men's and women's tennis coach at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Pacelli will assume his duties at ECCC in July. He replaces Dianne O'Neill, who retired this spring after eight years as adjunct tennis coach for both programs.

Pacelli

"Student success remains a top priority of the administration and Board of Trustees at East Central Community College," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart in announcing Pacelli's hiring. "Mr. Pacelli is a proven winner as a coach on the NCAA Division I, Division II, Division III and community college levels, and comes highly recommended to us as an outstanding coach, recruiter, and individual who works well with students. He also has extensive knowledge of tennis in the central Mississippi area. I am confident that he will serve ECCC, our students, and our student-athletes well. He is committed to doing all he can to see our vision of student success become a reality in the men's and women's tennis programs, the EC Way – Excellence With Class."

Tennis

From 10A

ogy from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

While a student at Moravian, he lettered four seasons as a tennis player, splitting time at No. 1-3 singles and served as team captain his senior year.

Pacelli's first coaching experience came as a graduate assistant coach at the University of Northern Iowa in 1996-97 while working on his master's degree. In 2000, after working toward a Ph.D. in sport psychology, Pacelli decided to return to coaching, taking the women's head coaching position part-time at Olivet College, an NCAA Division III program, in Olivet, Mich.

After a brief stint with Olivet, Pacelli became the head men's and women's tennis coach at Pratt Community College in Pratt, Kan., where he guided the men's program to a No. 26 national ranking among community colleges and coached two players to Top 20 national rankings.

Pacelli also has served as head women's tennis coach at former Gulf South Conference member and NCAA Division II Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, where his team improved by six victories from his first to second season; head women's tennis coach at NCAA Division I Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, where his 2006 team had the best single season winning percentage since 1997 and most single season victories since 1993; and head men's and women's tennis coach at NCAA Division III Millsaps College in Jackson, where he led the 2010 men's team to 12 victories, the most overall at the time in Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference history.

He also has served as the tennis director and head tennis professional for the Courthouse Racquet and Fitness Center in Byram.

"I look forward to developing a championship program at ECCC with many terrific young men and women who will find success both on and off the court," Pacelli said.

Pacelli and his wife, Katy, are the parents of one son, James. Katy Pacelli is the executive director of the Kelly Gene Cook Sr. Charitable Foundation in Jackson.

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WEEK OF June 7, 2015

ECCC to host Tuesday night tennis

East Central Community College will again be hosting the East Central Tennis Association (ECTA) Tuesday Night Tennis, a social mixer that runs every Tuesday evening from May 19 through June 30.

The tennis play is divided into the following time slots: Beginners - 5:30 p.m.; Intermediate - 6 p.m.; Advanced - 7 p.m.

The cost is $10 for the summer. Proceeds go to the ECTA, which helps promote and support area tennis.

For more information, contact ECCC Adjunct Tennis Coach Dianne O'Neill at 601-862-2130 or send inquiries by email killerbdi@yahoo.com.

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East Central Community College Lady Warriors No. 2 Doubles Team of Hannah
les, left, of Leake Academy and Mackie Smith, right, of Newton County High School
he Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state and National Junior
ge Athletic Association Region 23 tournament titles April 18 in Tupelo. Shown with the
pions is Dianne O'Neill, adjunct tennis coach.

ECCC doubles team captures state and region tennis titles

from school reports

The East Central Community College Lady Warriors No. 2 Doubles Team of Hannah Peoples and Mackie Smith captured the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state and National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 tournament titles April 18 in Tupelo.

Peoples of Leake Academy and Smith of Newton County High School won four straight matches over the three-day competition played at Rob Leake Park in Tupelo to win the titles.

The tandem of Peoples and Smith defeated Allie Dear and Caroleah Brister of Copiah-Lincoln Community College 3-6, 6-0, 6-3 in the opening round; No. 1-seeded Ivy Robbins and Anna Claire Griffin of Itawamba Community College 6-4, 4-6, 10-7 in the quarterfinals; Brittany Weathersby and Kelly Carlson of Hinds Community College 6-1, 6-4 in the semifinals; and No. 2-seeded Alden Hartley and Jennifer Smith of Meridian Community College 6-3, 6-2 in the finals.

"Hannah and Mackie dominated the finals match with crushing overheads, aggressive net play, and great court coverage," said Dianne O'Neill, East Central's adjunct tennis coach. "The team played to a largely ECCC cheering crowd which gave them a lot of momentum.

"The combination of Hannah's athleticism and speed coupled with Mackie's quick hands and steady groundstrokes made for an unbeatable team this week."

Smith had knee surgery during her senior year in high school last spring and missed most of the pre-season at ECCC. "Mackie fought hard for her position on the team," commented O'Neill. "EC's loss is that she is graduating early and won't get to play her second year for the Lady Warriors.

"East Central had a great year of tennis, an outstanding tournament, and winning a championship was the pinnacle," added O'Neill, who is retiring after the spring season.

The East Central Warriors and Lady Warriors both finished sixth overall in the team competitions.

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WEEK OF April 12, 2015

ECCC tennis teams top Holmes Community CC

On an afternoon when East Central Community College's departing sophomore players were honored, both the Warriors and Lady Warriors defeated the Holmes Community College Bulldogs April 10 in Decatur.

The Lady Warriors won 9-0 and the Warriors claimed a 6-3 victory over Holmes on the annual Sophomore Day at East Central.

Results from the women's match are as follows:

Singles – EC's Shannon St. Claire defeated Jennifer Rule, 6-0, 6-0; EC's Hannah Peoples defeated Allie Frudge, 6-1, 6-1; EC's Mackie Smith beat Anna Claire Shores, 6-3, 6-0; EC's Kaley Bufkin defeated Katherine Woods, 6-0, 6-0; EC's Brooke Payne defeated Lori Nesbitt, 6-0, 6-0; and EC's Kristine Jenkins defeated Laurie Alvis, 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles – EC's St. Claire/Bufkin defeated Rule/Frudge, 8-3; EC's Peoples/Smith defeated Shores/Nesbitt, 8-0; and EC's Payne/Jenkins defeated Alvis/Sarah Walden, 8-0.

Results from men's competition are as follows:

Singles – EC's Juan Miranda lost to Owen Taylor, 6-3, 6-0; EC's Javon Yarbrough defeated Nick Robertson, 6-1, 6-1; EC's Cole Duty lost to Dylan Throgmorton 6-3, 4-6 (10-3); EC's Robert Strong beat Correy Warren, 6-4, 6-2; EC's Devin Skinner defeated Justin Sawyer, 6-2, 6-0; and EC's Alex Chapman defeated Sam Cain, 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles – EC's Miranda/Strong lost to Taylor/Robertson, 8-5; EC's Yarbrough/Skinner defeated Throgmorton/Warren, 8-3; and EC's Duty/Chapman defeated Sawyer/Hunter Moore, 8-0.

East Central's home match against Northeast Mississippi Community College scheduled for Friday, April 10, has been canceled.

The Warriors and Lady Warriors were tp travel to Senatobia Tuesday to battle Northwest Mississippi Community College in the final matches of the regular season.

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Union High School senior Hannah Payne, seated right, recently signed a tennis scholarship with East Central Community College. Pictured with her are, from left, front row, her father James Payne and brother Carson Payne; back row, teaching pro Pete Mazzella, grandparents Larry and Liz Payne, Union High tennis coach Bryan Norman, and her sister Brooke Payne.

Submitted photo

Three local athletes sign JUCO scholarships

By Austin Bishop
sports@newtoncountyappeal.com

A trio of local athletes signed scholarships to play on the junior college level next season.

Basketball stars Tan Lloyd and Dana Brown of Newton High School signed on Thursday to play for Jones County Junior College next year, while Union High School tennis standout Hannah Payne signed with East Central Community College on Friday.

While both Brown and Lloyd said they weren't necessarily going to go to the same college all along, they were pleased with the opportunity to continue to play on the same team.

"When I went and visited (JCJC in Ellisville), I loved the environment and I was very comfortable," Lloyd said. "We both (she and Brown) liked it and enjoyed it and talked about (playing together). It's a great basketball program and they have great coaching."

Brown said one of the reasons she chose Jones was because they had been recruiting her from the beginning.

"I wanted to go with somebody who has been there since day one," Brown said. "They have been paying a lot of attention (to me) and the campus is awesome. I am excited and nervous at the same time, because it is a big step."

Earning a tennis scholarship is not something Payne thought about five years ago. She had played soccer at her previous school in Petal, but when she moved to Union for her eighth grade year that opportunity wasn't there, so she headed to the tennis courts.

She has been a doubles player most of her career, but this season UHS coach Bryan Norman moved her to singles.

"She has really done well," Norman said. "She is 7-2 in singles. She is a real go-getter and has a real good stroke. As far as being a pure tennis player, she is probably one of the best I have."

"I am really looking forward to it," Payne said of playing at East Central. "I always wanted to go to East Central because it is closer to home."

She said there were a few adjustments she had to make in her move from mixed doubles to singles. "Keeping it inside the lines is the biggest thing," she said, noting the difference in the width of the court between doubles and singles.

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WEEK OF March 29, 2015

ECCC netters defeat Northwest

Warriors to take on Gulf Coast

From staff reports

East Central Community College's tennis squads defeated visiting Northwest Mississippi Community College 8-1 in women's and 7-2 in men's action last Tuesday..

Results from women's competition are as follows:

Singles

EC's Shannon St. Claire defeated Chelsea Jarrell (7-6, 6-3); EC's Hannah Peoples defeated Madison Jarrell (6-4, 6-0); EC's Mackie Smith defeated Kaylan Cooper (6-4, 7-5); EC's Kaley Bufkin defeated Macey Magee (6-3, 5-7, 10-8); EC's Kristine Jenkins defeated Kendall McCoy (6-1, 6-0); and EC's Brooke Payne fell to Anna Rosenbaum (6-2, 6-1).

Doubles

EC's St. Claire/Bufkin defeated C. Jarrell/M. Jarrell (8-4); EC's Peoples/Smith defeated Rosenbaum/Magee (8-3); and EC's Payne/Jenkins defeated Cooper/Carpenter (8-4).

Results from men's competition are as follows:

Singles

EC's Javon Yarbrough defeated Christian Scott (6-2, 6-4); EC's Cole Duty defeated Thomas Hall (6-2, 6-0); EC's Robert Strong defeated Tyler Newman (6-4, 6-4); EC's Devin Skinner defeated Jon Morgan Bell (6-1, 7-5); EC's Alex Chapman defeated Noah Dunlap (6-2, 6-3); and EC's Juan Miranda fell to Joseph Shidler (6-4, 6-1).

Doubles

EC's Yarbrough/Skinner defeated Hall/Newman (9-7); EC's Duty/Chapman defeated Bell/Dunlap (8-3); and EC's Miranda/Strong fell to Shidler/Scott (8-3).

The Warriors and Lady Warriors host Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Monday, March 31, in matches beginning at 1 p.m. on the Decatur campus.

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Winston County Journal
www.winstoncountyjournal.com

ECCC Tennis squads drop decisions

ECCC tennis teams dropped a pair of decisions to Itawamba Community College Tuesday, March 17, at Gaddis Park in Forest.

The Lady Warriors fell 8-1 to the visiting Lady Indians and the Warriors lost 9-0.

In women's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Kristine Jenkins and Mackie Smith defeated Kacey Byrd and Madison Scott (8-6); EC's Shannon St. Claire and Kaley Bufkin fell to Taylor Patterson and Andria Barnes (8-3); and EC's Hannah Peoples and Brooke Payne lost to Anna Clair Griffin and Ivy Robbins (8-3).

Singles – St. Claire fell to Patterson (6-1, 6-0); Peoples fell to Barnes (6-2, 6-3); Smith lost to Robbins (6-2, 6-3); Bufkin was defeated by Griffin (6-4, 6-3); Payne fell to Angela Hudson (6-3, 7-5); and Jenkins lost to Scott (6-0, 6-0).

In men's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Juan Miranda and Robert Strong fell to Nathan Pinkey and Cody Coins 1).

EC Tennis Teams Defeat Hinds, Fall to Jones

East Central Community College tennis teams defeated Hinds Community College Thursday, March 19, in contests held on the Decatur campus.

The ECCC women's squad defeated the visiting Lady Eagles 5-4 and the Warriors won 9-0.

In women's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Brooke Payne and Kristine Jenkins defeated Haley Hicks and Aygul Brown (8-3); EC's Shannon St. Claire and Kaley Bufkin fell to Brittany DeCamp and Kelly Carlson (8-1); EC's Hannah Peoples and Mackie Smith lost to Rachel Rhett and Brittany Weathersby (8-5);

Singles – St. Claire defeated Rhett (6-2, 6-1); Peoples was the victor over DeCamp (6-2, 6-2); Payne defeated Hicks (6-3, 6-3); Jenkins defeated Brown (6-4, 6-4); Smith fell to Weathersby (3-6, 6-4, ner over Pevey (6-0, 6-1); Duty defeated Rhett (6-4, 6-4); Strong was the victor over McNair (6-2, 6-3); Skinner defeated Bethea (6-2, 6-3); and Chapman was the winner over Burton (6-2, 6-4).

The Lady Warriors fell 7-2 to Jones County Junior College and the EC men were defeated 9-0 by the Bobcats Wednesday, March 18, in matches held in Decatur.

In women's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Shannon St. Claire and Kaley Bufkin defeated Jenna Hegwood and Shelby Gilliland (8-5); EC's Hannah Peoples and Mackie Smith lost to Claire Rounsaville and Breanna Waller (8-6); and EC's Brooke Payne and Kristine Jenkins were defeated by Krissy Stutts and Tymeka Hunter (8-1).

Singles – St. Claire defeated Hegwood (6-3, 6-2); Peoples fell to Gilliland (6-4, 6-2); Smith lost to Rounsaville (6-1, 6-0); Bufkin was defeated by Stutts (6-0, 6-0); Payne fell to Hunter (6-3, 6-1); and Jenkins lost to

ECCC Men's Tennis Team 2015

Members of the 2015 men's tennis team at East Central Community College in Decatur and their respective high schools include (back row, from left) Robert Strong, Forest; Alex Chapman, Mary G. Montgomery, Semmes, Ala.; Eduardo Santillan, Forest; and Tyler Patrick, Morton; and (front row, from left) Juan Miranda, Morton; Javon Yarbrough, Louisville; Devin Skinner, Neshoba Central; and Cole Duty, Winston Academy. Robert Thompson serves as head coach and Dianne O'Neill is adjunct coach.

defeated by Swisher (6-0, 6-4); Strong fell to Baskin (6-2, 6-0); Skinner was defeated by Kiewit (6-1, 6-4); and Chapman lost to Hester (6-0, 6-1).

ECCC hosts Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Tuesday, March 31, in matches beginning at 1 p.m. on the Decatur campus.

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lows:

Doubles – EC's Kristine Jenkins and Mackie Smith defeated Kacey Byrd and Madison Scott (8-6); EC's Shannon St. Claire and Kaley Bufkin fell to Taylor Patterson and Andria Barnes (8-3); and EC's Hannah Peoples and Brooke Payne lost to Anna Clair Griffin and Ivy Robbins (8-3).

Singles – St. Claire fell to Patterson (6-1, 6-0); Peoples fell to Barnes (6-2, 6-3); Smith lost to Robbins (6-2, 6-3); Bufkin was defeated by Griffin (6-4, 6-3); Payne fell to Angela Hudson (6-3, 7-5); and Jenkins lost to Scott (6-0, 6-0).

In men's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Juan Miranda and Robert Strong fell to Nathan Pinkey and Cody Coins (8-1), EC's Javon Yarbrough and Devin Skinner fell to Austin McElwain and David McElwain (8-3) and EC's Cole Duty and Alex Chapman were defeated by Mark Robbins and Joseph Summers (8-3).

Singles – Miranda lost to Pinkey (7-5, 6-4), Yarbrough fell to A. McElwain (6-0, 6-3), Duty was defeated by Coins (6-2, 6-2), Strong fell to D. McElwain (6-0, 6-0), Skinner lost to Robbins (6-2, 6-0), and Chapman was defeated by Drew Ballard (6-0, 6-

campus.

The ECCC women's squad defeated the visiting Lady Eagles 5-4 and the Warriors won 9-0.

In women's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Brooke Payne and Kristine Jenkins defeated Haley Hicks and Aygul Brown (8-3); EC's Shannon St. Claire and Kaley Bufkin fell to Brittany DeCamp and Kelly Carlson (8-1); EC's Hannah Peoples and Mackie Smith lost to Rachel Rhett and Brittany Weathersby (8-5);

Singles – St. Claire defeated Rhett (6-2, 6-1); Peoples was the victor over DeCamp (6-2, 6-2); Payne defeated Hicks (6-3, 6-3); Jenkins defeated Brown (6-4, 6-4); Smith fell to Weathersby (3-6, 6-4, 10-7); and Bufkin was defeated by Carlson (6-2, 6-2).

In men's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Juan Miranda and Robert Strong defeated Aaron Gray and Austin Pevey (8-4); EC's Javon Yarbrough and Devin Skinner were the winners over Robert Rhett and Melvin McNair (8-6); and Cole Duty and Alex Chapman defeated Kyle Burton and Peter Bethea (8-1).

Singles – Miranda defeated Gray (6-1, 6-2); Yarbrough was the win-

EC men were defeated 9-0 by the Bobcats Wednesday, March 18, in matches held in Decatur.

In women's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Shannon St. Claire and Kaley Bufkin defeated Jenna Hegwood and Shelby Gilliland (8-5); EC's Hannah Peoples and Mackie Smith lost to Claire Rounsaville and Breanna Waller (8-6); and EC's Brooke Payne and Kristine Jenkins were defeated by Krissy Stutts and Tymeka Hunter (8-1).

Singles – St. Claire defeated Hegwood (6-3, 6-2); Peoples fell to Gilliland (6-4, 6-2); Smith lost to Rounsaville (6-1, 6-0); Bufkin was defeated by Stutts (6-0, 6-0); Payne fell to Hunter (6-3, 6-1); and Jenkins lost to Caitlyn Taylor (4-6, 6-2, 10-7).

In men's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Juan Miranda and Robert Strong fell to Graham Lightsey and Eric Swisher (8-3); EC's Javon Yarbrough and Devin Skinner were defeated by Josiah Lim and Austin Basket (8-5); and EC's Cole Duty and Alex Chapman lost to Robert Kiewit and Josh Hester (9-8, 7-3).

Singles – Miranda fell to Lightsey (6-1, 4-6, 10-3); Yarbrough lost to Lim (6-1, 6-2); Duty was

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Chapman lost to Hester (6-0, 6-1).

ECCC hosts Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

Tuesd match p.m. campu

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WEEK OF March 22, 2015

EC tennis squads split matches

East Central Community College tennis teams defeated Hinds Community College Thursday, March 19, in contests held on the Decatur campus.

The ECCC women's squad defeated the visiting Lady Eagles 5-4 and the Warriors won 9-0.

In women's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Brooke Payne and Kristine Jenkins defeated Haley Hicks and Aygul Brown (8-3); EC's Shannon St. Claire and Kaley Bufkin fell to Brittany DeCamp and Kelly Carlson (8-1); EC's Hannah Peoples and Mackie Smith lost to Rachel Rhett and Brittany Weathersby (8-5);

Singles – St. Claire defeated Rhett (6-2, 6-1); Peoples was the victor over DeCamp (6-2, 6-2); Payne defeated Hicks (6-3, 6-3); Jenkins defeated Brown (6-4, 6-4); Smith fell to Weathersby (3-6, 6-4, 10-7); and Bufkin was defeated by Carlson (6-2, 6-2).

In men's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Juan Miranda and Robert Strong defeated Aaron Gray and Austin Pevey (8-4); EC's Javon Yarbrough and Devin Skinner were the winners over Robert Rhett and Melvin McNair (8-6); and Cole Duty and Alex Chapman defeated Kyle Burton and Peter Bethea (8-1).

Singles – Miranda defeated Gray (6-1, 6-2); Yarbrough was the winner over Pevey (6-0, 6-1); Duty defeated Rhett (6-4, 6-4); Strong was the victor over McNair (6-2, 6-3); Skinner defeated Bethea (6-2, 6-3); and Chapman was the winner over Burton (6-2, 6-4).

The Lady Warriors fell 7-2 to Jones County Junior College and the EC men were defeated 9-0 by the Bobcats Wednesday, March 18, in matches held in Decatur.

In women's competition, results were as follows:

Doubles – EC's Shannon St. Claire and Kaley Bufkin defeated Jenna Hegwood and Shelby Gilliland (8-5); EC's Hannah Peoples and Mackie Smith lost to Claire Rounsaville and Breanna Waller (8-6); and EC's Brooke Payne and Kristine Jenkins were defeated by Krissy Stutts and Tymeka Hunter (8-1).

Singles – St. Claire defeated Hegwood (6-3, 6-2); Peoples fell to Gilliland (6-4, 6-2); Smith lost to Rounsaville (6-1, 6-0); Bufkin was defeated by Stutts (6-0, 6-0); Payne fell to Hunter (6-3, 6-1); and Jenkins lost to Caitlyn Taylor (4-6, 6-2, 10-7).

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Singles – Miranda fell to Lightsey (6-1, 4-6, 10-3); Yarbrough lost to Lim (6-1, 6-2); Duty was defeated by Swisher (6-0, 6-4); Strong fell to Baskin (6-2, 6-0); Skinner was defeated by Kiewit (6-1, 6-4); and Chapman lost to Hester (6-0, 6-1).

ECCC was scheudled to host Gulf Coast Tuesday.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN ✓

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 22, 2015

ECCC Men's Tennis Team 2015

Members of the 2015 men's tennis team at East Central Community College in Decatur and their respective high schools include (back row, from left) Robert Strong, Forest; Alex Chapman, Mary G. Montgomery, Semmes, Ala.; Eduardo Santillan, Forest; and Tyler Patrick, Morton; and (front row, from left) Juan Miranda, Morton; Javon Yarbrough, Louisville; Devin Skinner, Neshoba Central; and Cole Duty, Winston Academy. Robert Thompson serves as head coach and Dianne O'Neill is adjunct coach. (EC PHOTO)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

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SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF March 22, 2015

ECCC women's tennis team

Members of the 2015 women's tennis team at East Central Community College in Decatur and their respective high schools include (back row, from left) Brook Payne, Union; and Kaley Bufkin, Macken'z Smith and Shannon St. Clair, all of Newton County; and (front row, from left) Kristine Jenkins and Katlyn Patrick, both of Forest; and Hannah Peoples, Leake Academy. Robert Thompson serves as head coach and Dianne O'Neill is adjunct coach. (EC PHOTO)

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN _____

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL ✓

SPIRIT OF MORTON ✓

MERIDIAN STAR ✓

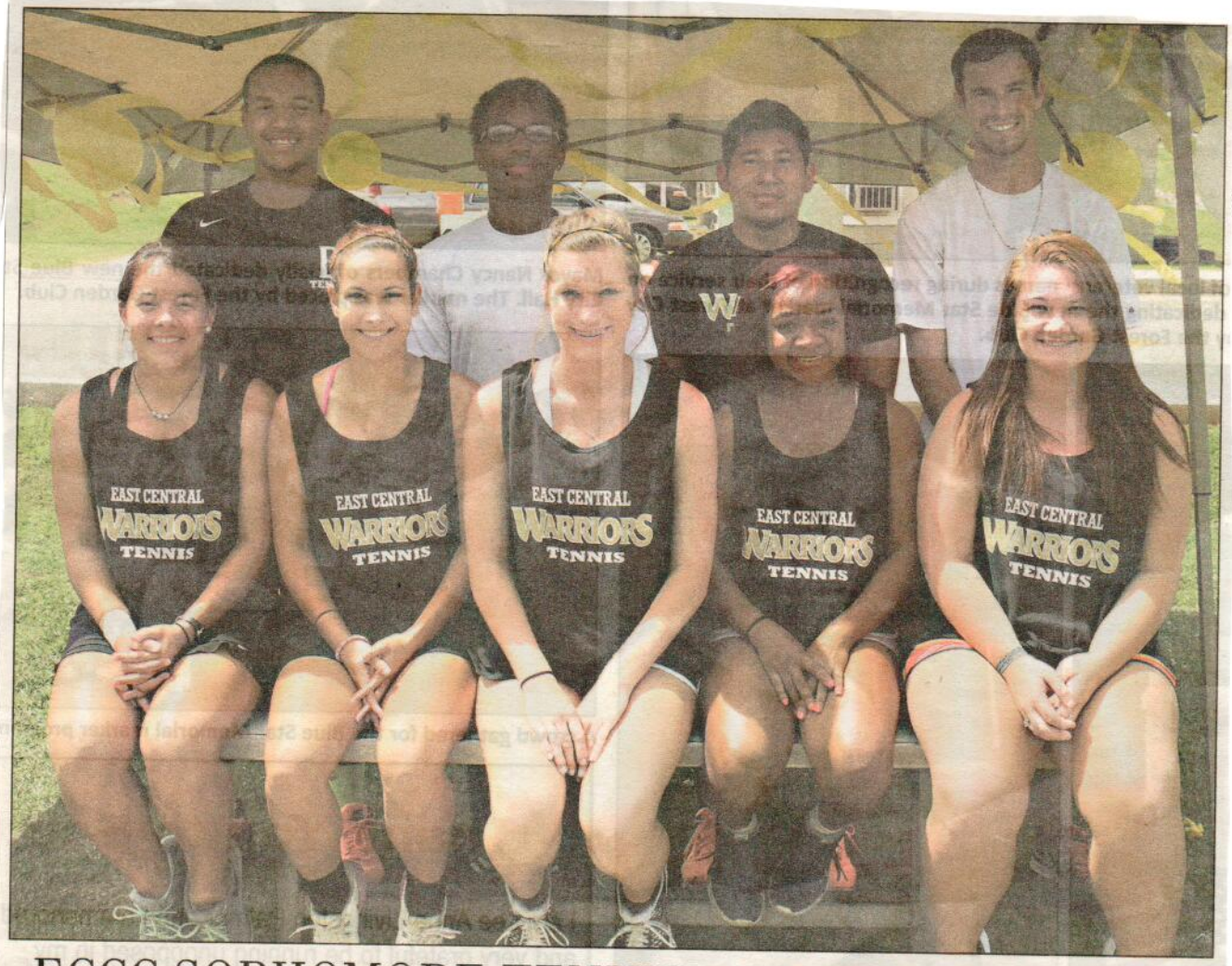
NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES _____

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

CLARION-LEDGER _____

WEEK OF August 2, 2015



ECCC SOPHOMORE TENNIS PLAYERS HONORED

These members of the East Central Community College tennis teams were honored during "Sophomore Appreciation Day," held prior to the group's final home match against Holmes Community College. The Warriors and Lady Warriors both claimed victories in the home finale. Pictured are, seated from left: Leake Academy product Hannah Peoples, Newton County products Shannon St. Clair and Macken'z Smith; and Katlyn Patrick and Kristine Jenkins, both of Forest. Standing: Robert Strong of Forest, Javon Yarbrough of Louisville, and Morton products Juan Miranda and Tyler Patrick. Robert Thompson serves as head coach and Dianne O'Neill is adjunct coach.

APPEARED IN:

CARTHAGINIAN X

NEWTON COUNTY APPEAL _____

SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR _____

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

SCOTT COUNTY TIMES X

WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL _____

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WEEK OF Sept. 13, 2015

MCC tennis set to host USTA/ITA championships

From school reports

Meridian Community College will play host to six Mississippi Junior Colleges and one Alabama JUCO beginning Wednesday, September 16 as they host the USTA/ITA Southern Regional Junior College Championships.

The tournament begins on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. with a mandatory coaches' meeting followed by men's play at 5:00 in the round of sixty-four singles matches. The men's draw is very competitive.

There are seven men's teams entered with 43 singles entrants and 20 doubles teams; schools participating on the men's side are Copiah Lincoln, East Central, Hinds, Holmes, Marion Military Institute (Alabama), Mississippi Gulf Coast and Meridian. MCC's freshman Jason Pimenta, who hails from New Zealand, is the No. 1 seed going into the tournament with one win over MMI's Adam Bahney earlier in the fall.

MGCCC sophomore, Sam Blackburn, who suffered one loss season as a freshman, will add to the mix as will freshman Harry Foster from MMI.

On the men's doubles, Pimenta and partner Samuel Butler start the tournament as the number one seed after slipping by MMI's Foster/Andrew Wright in an early fall match. Again, MGCCC's number one doubles team will bring a great deal of talent with Blackburn a part of that duo.

Copiah Lincoln has a pair of returning sophomores who will be very competitive. It is really difficult to know what some of our freshmen will do as we have practiced only for about six weeks.

On the girl's side there are only four teams competing, but the women, too, figure to be very competitive.

MGCCC's, Pauline Estrada, ranked number 18 in Mexico comes in at the number one seed with Paige Gibson from Meridian getting the number two seed. The women's bracket truly can belong to anyone as all four teams have some really strong players.

ECCC's Kaley Bufkin will certainly be a factor as will Hind's Rachel Rhett. In women's doubles, the duo of Estrada/Katie Robinson will be strong contenders for the solo spot to qualify for the National Small College Championships as will Gibson/Shelby Zachry, Meridian; Bufkin/Chaney Mills, ECCC; and Rachel Rhett/Sophia Slusasz, Hinds.

The JUCO tournament is not a flighted tournament. It is a qualifying tournament for the USTA/ITA National Small College Championships.

The male and female single's champion and the male and female double's champions will get a bid into this tournament which will be held in South Carolina October 14-18.

APPEARED IN:

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SPIRIT OF MORTON _____

MERIDIAN STAR X

NESHOBA DEMOCRAT _____

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